

JPRS 81744

10 September 1982

Near East/North Africa Report

No. 2618

FBIS

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

10 September 1982

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

No. 2618

CONTENTS

AFGHANISTAN

Soviet Economic Aid Projects Publicized (V. Rumiantsev; SOVIET EXPORT, Aug 82).....	1
Measures to Spur Industrial Development Taken (KABUL NEW TIMES, various dates).....	4
Gross Industrial Product Increased New Private Sector Projects Infrastructure Expanded	

EGYPT

Alexandria Expects Four Million Vacationers (THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE, 3 Aug 82).....	8
Government Team Studies Public Sector (THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE, 12 Aug 82).....	10
Plan to Rid East Delta of Rats (THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE, 3 Aug 82).....	11
Conflicting Explanations for Watermelon Shortage (AL-AHRAM, 29, 30 Jun 82).....	12
Agricultural Advisors Negligent Watermelons on Black Market	
Briefs	
Hamdi Tunnel	16
Street Vendors	16
Half Cairo's Budget for Housing	16
Arab Financing Firms	17

IRAN

Cabinet Reshuffle, Formation of Ministry of Revolution Corps (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 25 Jul 82).....	18
Guards Division Equipped with Iraqi AA Guns, T-72 Tanks (B. Ja'fari Interview; KEYHAN, 19 Jul 82).....	20
Neutral Shippers Brave Kharq Island War Zone (KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 18 Aug 82).....	26
Big Ring, Selling Exiles' Property, Discovered (KEYHAN, 21 Jul 82).....	27
Plot Alleged to Ruin Iran's Caviar Market (H. Fazel; KEYHAN, 19 Jul 82).....	29
Minister Discusses Problems of Public Health (Dr Manafi; KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 19 Aug 82).....	31
President: Iran Air Operating Without Foreigners (KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 22 Aug 82).....	33
Iran Seen as 'Most Powerful Regional Force' (Zainab; KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 19 Aug 82).....	34
Briefs Ahvaz Power Generator	36

ISRAEL

Druze Deeply Divided Over Golan Issue (HA'ARETZ, 27, 30, 31 May 82).....	37
---	----

MOROCCO

Upcoming Arab Summit Examined (M. al-Ashhab; AL-MUSTAQBAL, 21 Aug 82).....	49
---	----

OMAN

Housing Problems, Ways of Alleviating Them Discussed (M. al-Huwari; 'UMAN, 5 Jul 82).....	51
--	----

SAUDI ARABIA

Problems Facing Agricultural Production (S. al-Sa'id; AL-RIYADH, 14 Jul 82).....	55
---	----

SUDAN

Sudan's Oil Reserves	
(SUNA, 3 Aug 82).....	60
Briefs	
Petroleum Products to South	61
Sudan-Japan Cooperation	61
Chemical Industry	61
Romanian Transformers	61
Sudan-Iraq Cooperation	62
Farmers Unions Executive Committees Dissolved	62
Al-Jazirah Electrification Plan	62
Tree Planting Project	62
Irrigation Development Budget	62
Compulsory Military Service	63
Housing for Military	63
Banking Facilities	63
Electricity Corporation Structure	63
Sino-Sudanese Commercial Protocol	63
Allocation for Petroleum Depots	64
Crop Production Increase	64
Livestock Transportation	64
Energy, Mining Development Fund	64

SYRIA

Agricultural Plans, Problems Viewed	
(TISHRIN, 13 Jul 82).....	65
Engineers Union Calls for Cutting U.S. Cooperation	
(TISHRIN, 11 Jul 82).....	67
Briefs	
Gas Development	69

SOVIET ECONOMIC AID PROJECTS PUBLICIZED

Moscow SOVIET EXPORT in English No 3(138) Aug 82 pp 21-25

[Article by V. V. Rumiantsev, USSR trade representative in Afghanistan]

[Text] Trade links between our two countries were established back in the first years of the Soviet state. The Soviet-Afghan Friendship Treaty, signed in 1921, was the first inter-governmental document which laid a solid groundwork for good-neighbourly relations between our two countries. Precisely on the basis of this Treaty our economic relations began to take shape.

The progress of Soviet-Afghan trade is stimulated by a number of economic and geographical factors. For Afghanistan, which has no outlet to the sea, it is most expedient to develop trade with neighbouring states. The fact that our two countries have a common border reduces the transportation expenses of Afghanistan's exporters and importers and facilitates the settling of accounts.

Trade between the USSR and Afghanistan is done on the clearing basis. The clearing method of settling accounts and the signing of annual turnover protocols which include lists of items of mutual deliveries, enable Afghanistan to have a guaranteed market for its products. Now the country can broaden the range of its exports and meet its needs for imported goods of vital importance for the Afghan economy.

The stability of Soviet-Afghan trade makes Afghanistan's economy less sensitive to changes in the world market situation. This was seen particularly vividly in the years of the worldwide crisis of the capitalist economic system when the country had difficulties marketing its products in the markets of capitalist states. In such years,

the Soviet Union made extra purchases of Afghan export goods.

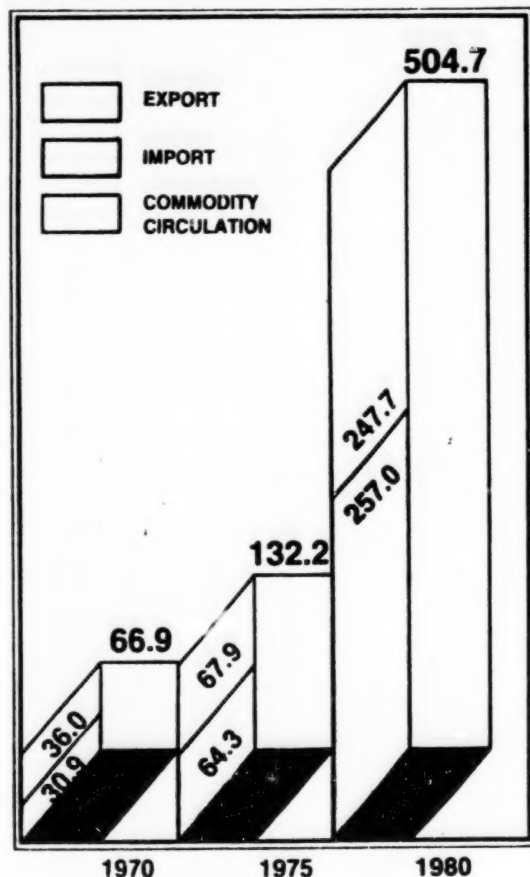
Trade between the USSR and Afghanistan is now effected on the basis of the trade and payments agreement signed by the two countries on March 20, 1974. This document provides new legal prerequisites for the further expansion of Soviet-Afghan trade and accords each side the most favoured nation treatment.

In 1976, the first long-term agreement on commodity circulation was signed. Covering the 1976—1980 period the document specified the range of basic Soviet and Afghan exports and imports, enabled both sides to include mutual trade in their state plans and provided favourable conditions for its further progress.

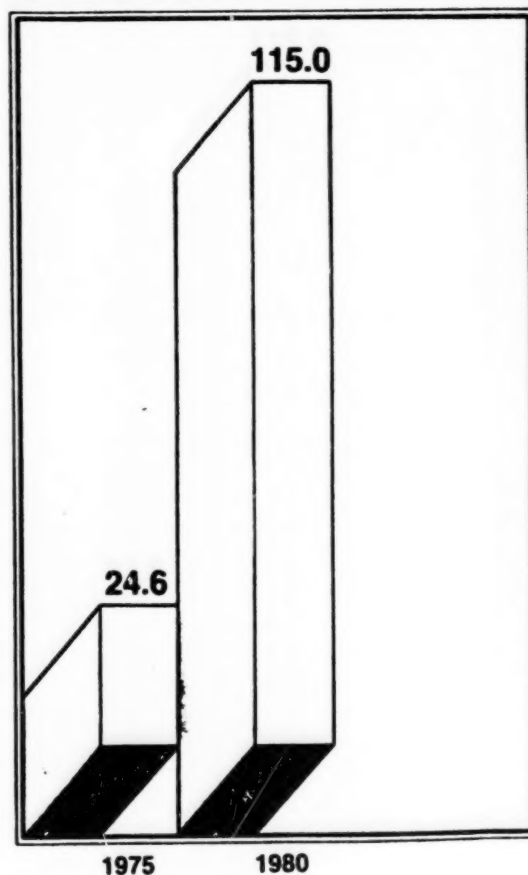
The signing of the Treaty on Friendship, Good-Neighbourly Relations and Co-operation between the USSR and Afghanistan, and of the Agreement establishing a permanent intergovernmental Soviet-Afghan Commission on economic co-operation was an important step in deepening the all-round Soviet-Afghan relations. The sides proclaimed that they "will broaden trade on the principles of equality, mutual benefit and the most-favoured-nation treatment."

The trade and economic relations between the two countries made especially dynamic progress over the last few years. In 1973, for instance, the Soviet-Afghan trade turnover was 70 million roubles; in 1978—215 million roubles; in 1980—almost 505

The Development of Trade Between the USSR and Afghanistan, million roubles



Export of machinery and equipment from the USSR to Afghanistan, million roubles



million roubles; and in the first half of 1981—326.5 million roubles.

The Soviet Union is rendering Afghanistan substantial assistance in meeting its import requirements. We supply Afghanistan with machines and equipment vital for that country's industrialisation: metal-cutting machine tools, forging and pressing, power, electrical, mining, hoisting and transport and textile industry equipment, road building machines. In 1975—1980, the USSR's export of machines and equipment—complete industrial plant included—to Afghanistan grew 4.7 times.

Machines and equipment constitute almost half of the Soviet export to Afghanistan. In turn, complete plant for the industrial enterprises being built in the Republic on long-term credit terms under intergovern-

mental agreements on economic and technical co-operation makes up almost 50 per cent of the equipment we export to Afghanistan.

Commercial credits granted by Soviet foreign trade organisations to Afghan organisations and firms on easy terms have a substantial role to play in Soviet deliveries to Afghanistan of machines, equipment and transport vehicles.

The import of Soviet equipment contributes a great deal to Afghanistan's economic progress. Motor transport is of special importance to that mountainous country. On the Republic's roads one can see many Soviet cars and trucks, including the latest KAMAZes. Afghan buyers think highly of the reliable and economical Soviet motor vehicles. A ramified network of motor depots,

service stations and pre-sale service points is being set up in Afghanistan in order to make a more effective use of Soviet cars and trucks. The Soviet Union is rendering Afghanistan every assistance in this.

Co-operation between Soviet and Afghan organisations in the sphere of trucking is making steady progress. The Afsotr mixed Soviet-Afghan transport and forwarding joint-stock company, with Soviet capital invested, takes care of about a third of the Soviet-Afghan freight turnover.

Two Soviet An-24 planes were delivered to Bahtar Afgan Airlines in January, 1981 to intensify passenger and cargo traffic by air.

The Soviet deliveries of tractors, combines and other farm machines are of great importance for the mechanisation of agriculture which is the main branch of Afghanistan's economy. This equipment, operating from machine and tractor stations now being set up, helps Afghanistan boost its agricultural production. Of no small importance in this respect are the Soviet deliveries of fertilisers and improved seed varieties. Soviet tractors arriving in Afghanistan are sold to farm cooperatives and individual peasants on easy terms.

The Soviet Union supplies practically all the wheat, sugar and oil products Afghanistan needs, and largely meets that country's import requirements for machines and equipment, transport vehicles, footwear, fabrics, soap and vegetable oils.

The main buyers of Soviet goods in Afghanistan are: state organisations such as the State Monopoly, the Central Food Prod-

ucts Administration, the Ministries of Transport and Tourism, Water Economy and Power Engineering, Agriculture, Mining and Industry, Public Works, the Bank of Agricultural Development, the Jangalak Motor Repair Works, and other departments and organisations. Mixed companies with state capital invested, for instance, Afghan-Kart, Samun, and also private companies play an important role in promoting trade links.

Afghan export to the USSR is growing at a rapid rate. The output of the enterprises built in Afghanistan with Soviet co-operation accounts for an ever greater proportion of Afghanistan's deliveries to the USSR. In 1980, this proportion constituted 56 per cent.

In 1976—1980, trade between our two countries doubled the level set by the commodity circulation agreement signed for that period. The volume of Soviet-Afghan trade grew 2.9 times as compared with the previous five years.

In April, 1981, a new long-term Soviet-Afghan commodity circulation agreement was signed for the period of 1981—1985. It provides for the trebling of the volume of mutual goods deliveries.

As the volume of Soviet-Afghan trade grows, its forms are becoming ever more variegated. In order to draw more commodities into this trade, the USSR and Afghanistan have signed an agreement on the development of co-operation between Soviet and Afghan consumers' co-operative societies and on the organisation of border trade between the Uzbek, Tajik and Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republics and the northern provinces of Afghanistan.

MEASURES TO SPUR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT TAKEN

Gross Industrial Product Increased

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 26 Jul 82 p 2

[Editorial: "For Rapid Industrial Development"]

[Text]

The role of the industrial sector along with other sectors of economy, is of paramount importance for the development of the country. Therefore, under the present circumstances and in line with the Programme of Action of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the industrialisation of the country in general, acceleration of the rate of economic growth by strengthening the state economic sector and supporting the growth and development of the private industries, cooperation for the growth of the small industries and handicrafts and further increase of industrial production are among the objectives of the revolutionary Government.

The DRA Government's realistic policy in the industrial sector dictates its assistance to the small private industries and the national ca-

pital holders, measures to attract investments by them, and a series of steps to ensure effective economical utilization of the raw industrial materials. All this will surely pave the ground for rapid industrial growth.

One of the effective methods for implementation of the development plan in the industries and energy sector is proper organisation and application of the scientific and practical methods.

After the victory of the Saur Revolution, especially its new and evolutionary stage, despite heavy odds, ample attention has been paid to the industrial sector. The gross state sector production in 1360 H.S. compared to 1357, 1358 and 1359 H.S. showed increases of 14 per cent, 9.8 and 6.7 per cent respectively. This is indicative of the steady im-

provement in the performance of the sector. The value of the gross industrial production in 1361 H.S. on the basis of the current prices will amount to Afs 44.18 billion, which shows an increase of Afs 5.44 billion compared to the previous year. The prospect for increase of the volume of production and the prices in the current year under present circumstances, particularly 1360 and 1361, in the sphere of industries and energy is considered positive.

Available data indicate that, to meet the needs of the toilers of the country for electricity, its production (1,010 million kws in 1360) will be raised to 1,088 million kws in the current year, which shows an

increase of 78 million kw. The DRA Government's endeavours for rapid development of the sector are evidently bearing fruit.

Likewise, further concentration on exploration and exploitation of the mines and other sources of energy constitute another major objective of the current year's development plan.

Considerable increase in the extraction of coal mines as an important source of energy in the country has also been envisaged in the current year, which has recorded a 16.6 per cent increase compared to the previous year.

All this stands testimony to the DRA Government's strivings for promotion of the industrial sector.

New Private Sector Projects

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 10 Aug 82 p 1

[Meeting under Dr Khalil Ahmad Abawi, president of State Planning Committee]

[Text]

KABUL, August 10 (Bakhtar).—The High Committee for Investment, in its periodical session held under the chairmanship of Dr Khalil Ahmad Abawi, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and President of the State Planning Committee, yesterday approved 35 medium and small-scale projects in various industrial fields in the private sector.

The feasibility of these projects was already studied and approved by the department of private investment as per the domestic and

foreign investment laws.

These new projects cover raisin-cleaning, textiles, poultry, soap-making and cold storage.

With the commissioning of these projects, job opportunities will be provided for thousands of workers.

The investments of these projects will total Afs 498 million. The number of the projects approved this year is 194 per cent more than in the first four months of the past year.

In respect of new jobs opportunities the increase amounts to 190 per cent.

The session was also attended by Mohammad Ismael Danesh, alternate member of the PDPA CC Politburo and Mines and Industries Minister, Abdul Wakil, Finance Minister, Fazl Rahim Momand, Agriculture and Land Reforms Minister, and Mohammad Khan Jalalar, Commerce Minister,

Infrastructure Expanded

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 11 Aug 82 p 3

[Report on interview with Abdul Wahab Ghaffuri, director of industrial development complexes]

[Text]

"In accordance with the progressive policy of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, for the development of the national industries as part of the growth of the country's economy, efforts are being made to increase and improve the national industries and the private sectors", said Eng Abdul Wahab Ghafouri, director of industrial development complexes, in an interview to the Kabul New Times.

On the extension and development of the industrial parks and on the main tasks of the industrial development department with regard to the private sector, he said: "The industrial parks, in the framework of the Mines and Industries Ministry, with the economic and technical cooperation of the friendly and neighbouring country of India, began their activities in order to provide facilities for the national investors. The

construction of the parks began in 1350 H.S. (1971) and was completed in the beginning of 1355 H. S. (1976)".

The main tasks of the industrial parks is to provide suitable places and facilities including electricity, water, and telephone, and paving to roads for the private sector projects approved by the High Committee of Development Investment of the Parks officially.

The approved projects are investigated first by a responsible commission of the directorate of the industrial development complexes. The commission considers the nature of the product and then decides on the area of land necessary for the factory which is given to the investor. The payment of the land is in instalments for 15 years.

In the first stage building the parks, 10 industrial complexes were built with

grant-in-aid from the friendly country of India.

In the framework of the directorate, a well-equipped technical workshop is functioning, in which the spare parts of the machines of factories, trolley buses are repaired or are made, enabling the private sector to get spare parts without paying interest.

The investors of the private sector can also get benefits from the foreign and local technical specialists in solving their problems, Ghafouri said.

In the first and second stages, 78 jeribs of development land were distributed for the approved projects in the industrial parks. Also, the development of 100 jeribs of land is under planning. Part of this has been distributed and the rest is ready for distribution.

According to the plan, 420 jeribs of land is to be developed in the industrial parks area for a number of industries.

"Fortunately, after the

victory of the Saur Revolution and its evolutionary phase, the development of the national industries is one of the main objectives of the Government and, in this phase, about 20 different units got land in the industrial parks area in which some of them are functioning, while the rest are under construction. With the opening of these units, about 150 workers will gain employment, Ghafouri noted.

He added: "The workers of the private sector of the industrial parks have the same rights as the workers of the Government. Some of these are food allowance of Afs 15, work uniforms, and coupon, they can join literacy courses and trade unions".

"The local investors always encourage the workers materially and morally", he said. For example, on May Day, gifts in cash and in kind worth Afs 50,000 were distributed in a function by the Mines and Industries Minister to skilled workers.

ALEXANDRIA EXPECTS FOUR MILLION VACATIONERS

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 3 Aug 82 r 2

[Text] ABOUT four million people are expected in the summer resorts of Alexandria, Port Said and Ras el-Bar this month against only two million this time last year. The extraordinary heat wave this summer and the welfare programmes of various companies and government departments account for the increase in the number of summer vacationers.

An important reason is that the opportunity to spend the summer vacation this year is limited to this month which constitutes the peak of the evastation season after Ramadan, the fasting month which relatively hindered people from flocking to the summer resorts.

The main problem which both the people and government face is that of transport and the safe use of the country's limited highways, particularly the Cairo-Alexandria Road which seems as crowded as any main street in Cairo.

Despite the doubling of the number of trains and buses holiday makers are still suffering because of the bad timing of travel of a large number of people at one and same time.

People travelling to Alexandria and the North Western coast have only two options, the Cairo-Alexandria Delta Road, and the Desert Road. Both roads are monitored by intensive police surveillance to control speeds in order to avoid any accidents.

The striking phenomenon this year is the excellent police service. A motorcycle squad covers the more than 200-km-distance round the clock to ensure safe driving and to make sure that drivers have their licences and that cars are suitable for these trips.

The summer season moreover necessitates the efforts of the Ministry of Supply which spares no effort in providing Alexandria and the main summer resorts with extra food supplies. In Alexandria, the supply quotas have been doubled. For instance, the largest sea-port city in Egypt is provided daily with enough supplies which would reach this month to about 40 tons of frozen chicken, 20 tons of frozen meat, 16,000 tons of sugar, 4,000 tons of soap, 11,000 tons of food oil and 60 tons of rice.

The daily needs of bread in Alexandria will be secured by means of four new production lines to bake 12,000 loaves daily, in addition to increasing the capacity of the existing bakeries by about 20 per cent.

Thirty selling stands for fish and 20 for light meal baskets have been already opened in Alexandria to face the needs of the unprecedented influx of visitors.

However, people still have complaints which need earnest consideration on the part of the police. The first complaint emanates from taxi-cabs and inter-governorate cars transporting people to Alexandria that tamper with fares. The ordinary out-of-season tariff is between LE 2.50 and LE 3, said a citizen, but now taxi drivers are charging passengers LE 4 and 4.50 which makes a difference in expenses unaffordable by many people, especially large families.

This exaggeration in transport fares needs the interference of the police to stop the exploitation of low-income people by greedy car drivers. A temporary police station at each terminal will be the solution, the citizen said.

More attention has been paid this year to the travel of youth, particularly students, to the main summer resorts in group trips to the main summer resorts. In Alexandria and other spots along the North Western coast camps have been set up to receive them.

This triggered a new wave of activity in the National Railways Authority which operates a train every half an hour to Alexandria, in addition to buses operated by tourism and travel companies.

People who have enjoyed a week-long or 10-day summer vacation in Alexandria however suffer much difficulty on returning to their home towns. The main complaint is against the West Delta Bus Company and the Ithadia Company.

CSO: 4500/272

GOVERNMENT TEAM STUDIES PUBLIC SECTOR

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 12 Aug 82 p 3

[Text] A FIVE-MAN commission has been entrusted to review the government's plan to upgrade the public sector, according to reliable sources in the Higher Cabinet Committee on Policies

The high-level committee, which comprises a number of Cabinet members and influential experts and officials met yesterday under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, Dr Fuad Mohiedin, to discuss among other things the latest developments of the efforts exerted to renovate and consolidate this important sector of the Egyptian economy.

For years, the issue of the deteriorated public sector has been the topic of controversy in economic and industrial circles, particularly under the existing economic open-door policy .

The wave of privatisation of industry, the tendency to encourage private enterprise under the open-door policy and the free trade system have to a certain degree affected the public sector and exposed it to unfair competition with projects enjoying limitless privileges under the investment laws currently in force in the country.

However, certain inherent defaults in the structure of the public sector management and operation, as well as the pricing systems which are very close to non-profit status were behind the losses the public sector suffered and the delay of replacement and renovation of its assets.

The projected development plan and modernisation is mainly based on transferring the supervision and ownership of the whole sector from the jurisdiction of the concerned ministries to the control of a number of national organisations.

The plan will entrust more freedom to the boards of the public sector units in the sphere of decision making and planning within the framework of the national development plans and the requirements of economic growth.

CSO: 4500/272

PLAN TO RID EAST DELTA OF RATS

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 3 Aug 82 p 2

[Text] The Chairman of the Egyptian Trade and Chemicals Company, Mr Abdul Tawab Soliman yesterday announced that his company is ready for local production of the poisons required to rid the governorates of fast multiplying army of rats.

The national campaign to exterminate rates in various governorates has started this week according to a statement by the Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Sufficiency, Dr Yussef Wali.

The rat population is most active in Sharkia and east Delta governorates as a result of the new reconstruction projects which are currently underway, where following the October war rats have been multiplying in the deserted Suez Canal Zone cities.

The sharp teeth of rats, said a provincial official, grow through the crop and foodstuffs containers in addition to the damage caused to plants in fields which results heavy losses to the national economy.

The initiative of the Egyptian Trade and Chemicals Company's Chairman has been stimulated by the statements of the Ministry of Agriculture which revealed that LE 10 million were allocated to import rat poisons from the international market in addition to a new appropriation of an extra LE 5 million.

The rat poison is a chemical product which has a lethal effect on rats . Therefore, chemists at research centres, chemistry professors at universities or technicians at companies for chemical industries could find the formula which would enable them to produce the required specifications.

"I need only a budget of LE 1 million to produce this poison locally," said Mr Soliman who assured that his company can produce anything inside the country since all possible facilities could be secured.

He also said that he is not stimulated by mere enthusiasm. "Nor do I give a flowery picture of our local potential, he said, "as we can save much because our activity is based on realistic and scientific experience."

In addition to chemical ways of ridding the countryside of rats, said a Ministry of Agriculture expert, a public information campaign is required to urge citizens to help the government efforts in this respect.

CONFLICTING EXPLANATIONS FOR WATERMELON SHORTAGE

Agricultural Advisors Negligent

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 Jun 82 p 8

[Article by Sabir 'Abd-al-Wahhab: "Agriculture Officials Interrogated for Negligence in Watermelon Farming in Ismailia"]

[Text] Ismailia--'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Ammarah, Governor of Ismailia, decided to turn over those responsible for agricultural guidance in the governorate for interrogation, because they are to blame for the watermelon crop being infected with certain agricultural diseases. This resulted in the crop disappearing from the markets this year. Their negligence also extended to other crops, which caused Ismailia to change into a governorate which imports vegetables, after having been one of the exporting governorates.

The Popular Council of the governorate, under the leadership of Husayn al-Aswad, has been discussing the problem of the watermelon crop disappearing from the markets, though Ismailia is considered one of the main watermelon producing governorates.

the council also discussed the problem of the governorate's poor vegetable production. The governorate's plan was to convert the governorate into a farm supplying Cairo and the neighboring governorates with fruits and vegetables.

Through the members' discussions, the council demanded the announcement of the Ministry of Agriculture's plan to deal with the disease which caused this problem. The council confirmed that agricultural guidance employees in the governorate were negligent in dealing with this phenomenon.

From another standpoint, the two Ismailia deputies, Ahmad Abu Zayd and Susan al-Kaylani, submitted a request, with the knowledge of the Popular Council, to Dr Yusif Wali, Minister of Agriculture, to request submission of the Ministry's plan to carry out the plan intended for the Ismailia governorate. It was compiled in 1978 and was aimed at expanding fruit and vegetable farming.

Watermelons on Black Market

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Jun 82 p 3

[Article by Hassan Salumah: "325 Billion Watermelons--Where Have They Disappeared"]

[Text] The fact that watermelons suddenly vanish the night their compulsory fixed price is announced is not a "riddle" which baffles the minds of the people; the matter is fully understood. The "shrewd" merchant hides the watermelons to sell them apart from the fixed price, and to those who pay more.

Official figures state that our country's watermelon production this year reached 325 billion melons, an average of seven fruits per person over the whole season.

The important question becomes: How do we protect the consumer from the merchant's games and create a direct link between the melon producer--the tiller of the soil--and the consumer, so the "shrewd" merchant disappears?

The season had begun, and large quantities of watermelon were tossed into the markets, bringing news of an abundant crop, but suddenly the new fixed price for watermelons was announced.

The day following the announcement of the fixed price, the watermelons vanished with great efficiency. The agent of this efficiency was the melon merchant, who was not satisfied with the fixed price, which limited his illegal profits.

Dr Sayyid Nasar, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Security for Garden and Vegetable Affairs, says that the watermelon crop is very plentiful this season. The ministry estimated the crop at 1,300,000 tons of various varieties and forms of watermelons; that is, about 325 billion melons. Thus, one person's share is about seven melons during the season, or 28 kg. These numbers are considered very high rates of consumption from the melon crop for the individual.

With all of this, one can hardly obtain a single melon, after unknown hands intervened to shift the abundant crop from the road to the markets to wherever they are hidden.

As for why the good watermelons are vanishing now, this is a secret which the Ministry of Food Supply knows. It is a phenomenon which is not limited to this year alone; rather, it has recurred for the past few years in the same manner and with the same timing. No sooner is the new fixed price announced, than the disappearance of the melons is also announced the morning the fixed price comes out. Thus, the announcement of the fixed price results in a unique phenomenon, when the large watermelons disappear (these are considered the best types of watermelons, having fully ripened on the vine),

while the inferior ones (small types, not fully ripened) enjoy the existence of the fixed price, since there are no others on the scene. It is of no benefit to the seller to get rid of them by selling at the fixed price: In the presence of the ripe melons, they are equal to nothing; in the presence of the fixed price and the disappearance of the ripe watermelons, the consumer is forced to buy them.

The question remains: How are the good, ripe, big watermelons disposed of?

What happens is that, in disposing of these types of watermelons, one suspects, for the most part, the method of trafficking in items kept in seclusion from the public or prohibited items, since they slip into these types of markets and make their way into the large hotels and restaurants, which liberally pay the greedy, insatiable merchant. Some merchants use private methods by filling watermelon orders for homes which pay without adhering to the fixed price system. This requires personal trust between the seller and the wealthy customer, who pays extra and obtains the best types.

It has been observed that good melons are sold at farms and small villages, far from the supervision of the Ministry of Supply and policemen, and at exorbitant prices.

Some melon merchants have private warehouses where they keep the excellent watermelons away from the wholesale markets in cities where there is some sort of control.

In all of these cases there is a victim. It is the producer (i.e., the small farmer), then the consumer (the one who is defeated). The producer is a victim because he does not sell his crop by weight or at a fixed price. Instead, he sells it by the freight car load or by piece count, which have no relationship to the fixed price established by the Ministry of Supply, because the ministry is naturally disposed to claim that it gives the producer 100 percent of the production costs as profit, while the producer sells his crop neither by weight nor at the fixed price. Instead, he is always under the pressure of the greedy merchant; that is, the fixed price does not protect the producer's rights.

The second victim is the consumer, since, in the case where a large crop is displayed, it is required that he buy at the compulsory fixed price and to buy the small sizes which are considered leftovers (which the merchant could not sell if the market were free), at a time when the merchant hides the first-rate melons and disposes of them in his private, devilish ways. Here, the consumer--whatever his importance--is the victim.

In the case of a deficient crop, the fixed price is not honored at all; once again the consumer is the victim.

The solution, as seen by Dr Sayyid Nasar, is to establish a direct connection between the producer and the governmental marketing agencies, so that the crop producer can price his goods at a price which is satisfactory for him. The number of middlemen would also be reduced, enabling the marketing agency to lower the price to the consumer. In this area there must also be a role in the marketing operations for the fruit and vegetable marketing cooperative societies, so that the crop is collected directly from the producer and distributed through outlets of the Ministry of Supply and the consumer societies, at prices which are satisfactory to the producer and are within the ability of the consumer to pay.

9605

CSO: 4504/381

BRIEFS

HAMDI TUNNEL--THE number of convoys passing through the Ahmed Hamdi Tunnel will be increased from four to seven convoys daily to cover the sharply increasing volume of supply goods and building materials transported from the various governorates to the North and South Sinai governorates, an official source at the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction, said yesterday. The source added that the number of cars passing through the tunnel reached 400 cars daily during the last four months and that the working hours of the tunnel will be increased by two hours daily to meet the expected transport increase. [Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 3 Aug 82 p 2]

STREET VENDORS--THE Licences Department of Cairo Governorate declined to give any more licences to street-vendors after it has been revealed that 300,000 street vendors crowd the capital's streets. The problem is that such street-vendors, said a Public Utilities Police official, need to set up stands at vital cross-roads and along the pavements in main streets which hampers the flow of traffic and annoys passers-by. Meanwhile the police investigations following a number of crackdowns in the last months reveal that about 25,000 out of such a number are practising without licences, which is punishable by Municipality regulations. [Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 6 Aug 82 p 3]

HALF CAIRO'S BUDGET FOR HOUSING--THE housing and reconstruction sector got the lion's share of the total investments allocated to Cairo Governorate in this fiscal year, the Governorate's Secretary-General Mr Ezzat Mohamed Ali, said yesterday. An allocation of L.E 60 million nearly half the total investments, fixed at L.E. 127 million, has been earmarked for building 47,000 flats in the districts of Ain Shams, Sharabia, Al-Zawiah Al-Hamra, Matarya and the two new residential cities of As-Salam and May 1, Mr Ali announced. The remaining part of the investments, L.E. 67 million, will be directed at roads, transport, youth, industry, electricity, public utilities and services. The Services Fund of the Governorate will contribute L.E. 5.2 million in aid to these projects, he added. The industrial sector got L.E. 10.6 million of which L.E. 3.6 million will be spent on establishing two fertilizers plants at Shoubra Al-Kheima and As Salam City. Five million pounds are to be used in improving the traffic system of the capital, urban development, youth institutions and civil defence. A telecommunication network and new telephone exchanges will be set up within the plan of the transport and telecommunication sector. [Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 10 Aug 82 p 2]

ARAB FINANCING FIRMS--THE Investment Organisation s Board of Directors Under Deputy Prime Minister for Economic and Financial Affairs, Mr Mohamed Abdul Fattah Ibrahim yesterday approved the establishment of four Arab financing companies with a capital totalling LE 1500 million, Organisation sources said. Three of the four companies will operate under the free zone system with a capital of LE 1.120 million. The fourth company will operate under the internal investment system with a capital of LE 400 million, they added. [Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 12 Aug 82 p 3]

CSO: 4500/272

CABINET RESHUFFLE, FORMATION OF MINISTRY OF REVOLUTION CORPS

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Jul 82 p 12

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi visited Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic yesterday morning and gave him a summation of current events in the country as well as the outcome of his recent trip abroad.

After the visit was over the Prime Minister discussed the visit as well as the cabinet reshuffle. He said: In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. I reported to the Imam on the trip and its outcome. I submitted to him that on this trip we explained the Islamic Republic's positions and Iran's circumstances in Iraq's imposed war on Iran. There were also discussions of regional issues such as the Palestine issue, which was discussed in detail there. We were informed of the measures our Algerian and Libyan brothers have taken in this regard and we expressed our own views on it. We stated there that support for any political movement must also be a tangible and specific act. The policy of the Islamic Republic is firmly grounded in this principle. At the same time he was also told that the Algerian government has an earnest desire to work for peace and follow up on the steps taken by the martyred Ben Yahya. We were receptive to this, but we stipulated that we are receptive so long as the Algerian government works to attain our conditions, which have been announced previously and are specific.

The Prime Minister then said concerning the cabinet reshuffle: As we have said before, there will be some changes in three or four of the ministries. Because of the bad connotation that has developed concerning this I want to explain that the main reason for these changes is that some of the brothers wanted to continue their activities in other posts. One of the brothers was ill, and the condition of his eyes did not permit him to continue working. For this reason a decision was made to make this change. Overall, of the ministries to be changed, one is the Ministry of Mines and Metals. I would like to express my appreciation here for the activities of brother Musavian. His activities led to the opening of the copper complex at Sarcheshmeh as well as changes in the Iron foundry at Esfahan. Naturally, his leaving to go to another place where he thinks he can work better does not mean that our preferences differ from his and that he could not work on the Council of Ministers. Our brother Mr Ruhami and our brother Mr Ma'adikhah also provided valuable service to the Council of Ministers. Their activities are

distinguished. Many things were accomplished in the health field, organization was achieved, and construction was done, while it had not been this way previously. Although our brother the martyred Fayazbakhsh laid the foundation, Dr Ruhani continued with this task and has now brought health care to a stage that is reliable. Likewise, I can say with respect to the Ministry of Guidance that previously we did not have dependable propaganda activities, especially in the area of propaganda directed abroad where we were in a zero condition. He made this area active and naturally this must be kept up in the future and these same policies pursued because these activities are vital to the existence of our revolution and stabilizing our revolution in the world. We cannot ignore these issues. I express appreciation here as the President of the Republic for the activities of all of these brothers, though my appreciation is of no significance and it is this nation which must express appreciation for these brothers.

Apart from these three ministries I think we ought to plan and introduce the Ministry of the Revolution Corps. These are all the changes that are to take place, although the brothers in the newspaper business--and I was once a newspaper reporter myself--have blown the issue up purely out of curiosity, and have given other explanations of this issue, none of which are correct. The matter is just as I have stated it and after the Majlis recess I think we will present the new ministers at the first session.

9310

CSO: 4640/426

IRAN

GUARDS DIVISION EQUIPPED WITH IRAQI AA GUNS, T-72 TANKS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Jul 82 p 14

[Interview with Brother Ja'fari, commander of the 30th Armored Division, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps]

[Text] Ahvaz--KEYHAN Correspondent: Brother Ja'fari, commander of the 30th Armored Division of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps explained the formation of this division and its activities in an exclusive interview with KEYHAN's correspondent in Ahvaz.

Brother Ja'fari, commander of the 30th Armored Division of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps began by saying: In accordance with the command from His Holiness Ayatollah Montazeri that the Guard Corps ought to be equipped with heavy weapons, we have spared no effort to accomplish this aim.

He added: The 10th Iraqi Armored Brigade, which was very important and well-known and took part in Operation Hovizeh was about 70 percent destroyed by Islamic forces in an assault. Prisoners that we have taken from the 10th Iraqi Armored brigade have said that this brigade no longer exists in its former state. It has been totally destroyed and lost all its capability. Then the People's Forces Operation broke the siege of Abadan in an extensive attack called Commander-in-Chief Khomeyni Spirit of God and the 3d Iraqi Armored Division was also totally destroyed by our combatants. After this operation all the enemy's armored equipment was collected and given to the Guard Corps and this brigade, with the full fighting preparedness it had due to having armored equipment with greater power was able to go into action in the huge Operation Road to Jerusalem which led to the liberation of the city of Bostan. He added: In this way the Guard Corps was again able to capture a great deal of armored equipment from the enemy in Operation Road to Jerusalem and was able to form its own independent brigade which was known from then on as the 30th Armored Brigade. After that, with our armored power and equipment we were able to take part in Operation Fath ol-Mobayyan where we saw action in 'Ayn Khosh, Dezful, Shush, and Tarqabiyeh and while inflicting heavy blows on the enemy, we also captured much in these areas, especially in the Sayet area, such as various kinds of rockets and tanks. During this victorious operation all of the equipment of one of Saddam's armored units was captured which included SAM 6 and 9 missiles.

Participation in Operation On to Jerusalem

Brother Ja'fari added: After becoming supplied with armored equipment the 30th Guard Corps Division prepared itself for the next operation which was the great Operation On to Jerusalem. When it went into action in this operation it again showed its fighting capability and power to the agressor enemy. At the present time this division, which has the capability of two full divisions and the combat experience it has gained during all this time, is ready and prepared for any kind of operation.

Iraqi forces are now in a state of chaos so that most of the enemy's divisions have been 70 to 80 percent destroyed and the 10th and 12th Brigades, which were considered among the enemy's most powerful brigades, have been totally destroyed. The forces that the Ba'thist army of Iraq has are not forces that can make a stand and fight.

Therefore we are now fully prepared, just as we were able to fight 12 or 15 Iraqi divisions and win, to fight 17 Israeli divisions, and with a view to the faith that our forces have, and their greatest weapon which is that God is great, we can defeat the usurper Israeli forces because we are the most powerful force in the region.

Concerning the recent claims by Russian advisors that the capture or destruction of Russian T-72 tanks by Iran's combatants in the Iran-Iraq war is no more than a rumor, he said: It was with T-72 tanks belonging to the 10th Iraqi Armored Brigade that we destroyed a great many of the enemy's armored tanks in operation Hovizeh and captured a lot of others intact. The recent claims of the Russian advisors concerning this are unfounded. Let it not be left unsaid that we have various kinds of French missiles, tanks, rocket launchers, and every kind of weapon and armor. I will even say that we have Brazilian tanks equipped with laser guns, and these are a new type of tank.

Method of Repairing Tanks and Personnel Carriers

The commander of the 30th Armored Division of the Guard Corps said in answer to a question about who has the job of repairing and maintaining equipment and heavy motorized vehicles such as tanks and personnel carriers: The repair technicians are people from the Guard Corps and the mobilization who are not specialists in this type of equipment at all and have only a little knowledge of heavy motorized equipment other than tanks and personnel carriers. There are also others who are doing this only with faith and a special interest and have gained some familiarity by disassembling and reassembling the various motor parts of the tanks and personnel carriers. They have been successful in view of the unavailability of the necessary tools for repair and maintenance of tanks and personnel carriers. They have gotten a lot of them ready and they have been used at the fronts.

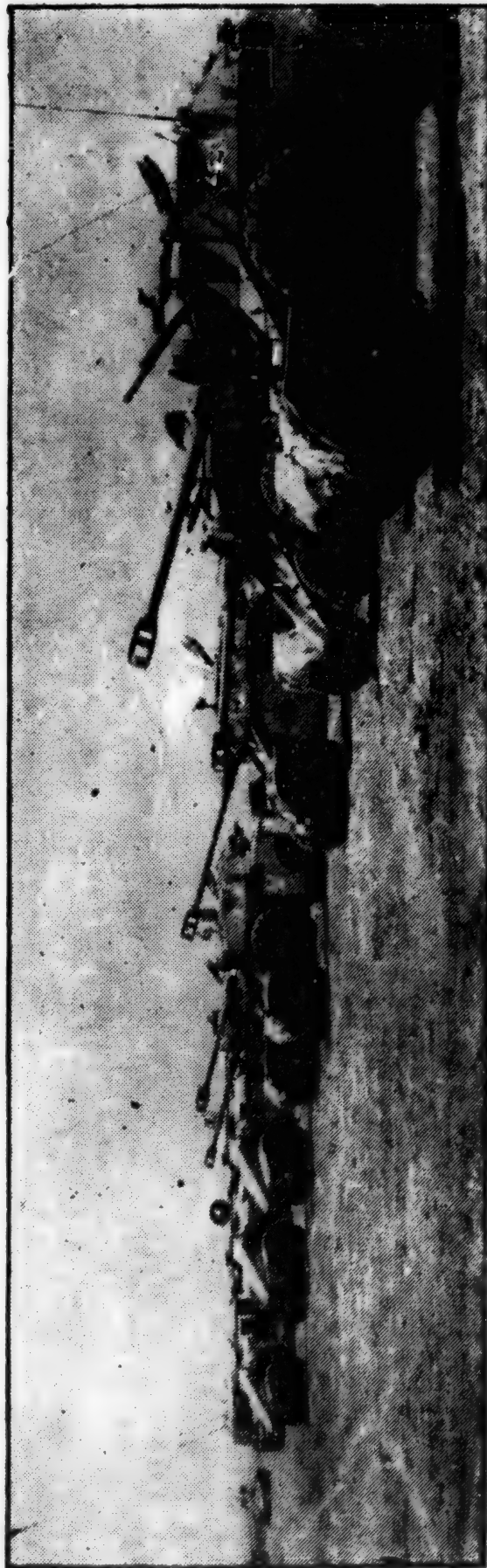
He added: The biggest problem we have now is the clutch plate on the tanks which goes out very quickly because of the heavy work this machine does. Our

forces in the repair shops spend most of their time on these clutch plates. Another point is that we need help in this area now and we are ready to employ and pay salaries to people who want to help us with this so that we can repair all our tanks and personnel carriers and get them in operation as quickly as possible so that our brothers at the front can fight the infidel with more equipment and armor.

During this interview a young officer from Shiraz who is a specialist in the repair and maintenance of Russian tanks and personnel carriers said:

During the former regime I was a student and Russian teachers taught us about this kind of equipment by the book and with extensive and modern equipment. For the least kind of a problem it was necessary to waste a week waiting for a certain tool or part to be brought from Tehran or the Soviet Union so that the installation could be accomplished with a so-called special technique. Now, however, in view of the unavailability of needed resources our brothers are going all out and working sincerely with empty hands to accomplish miracles. They make an impossible job practical and workable so that lacking a crane, they lift a tank motor, which is huge and very heavy as well, out of the tank very easily with a loader or a bulldozer. This is an impossible task but our brothers have done it.

Then Saraleh Sa'idi, a specialist in optical equipment, said: Among the other equipment which is repaired and maintained here are fire control devices which are related to optical equipment. They include tank, personnel carrier, and missile sights, various kinds of telescopes, periscopes, and binoculars, range finders and compasses, and all of these repairs are done right in Iran. Since we cannot make spare parts such as optical lenses we are obliged to get them from burned and destroyed Iraqi tanks at the front. We also make use of undamaged parts of tanks or personnel carriers at the fronts to repair the motors of the captured tanks and personnel carriers.



Hundreds of mechanized vehicles, personnel carriers, rocket launchers, and other war machines captured from the enemy have come into the service of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Some captured weapons are shown in the photo.



Captured tank with anti-aircraft radar controlled guns.



One of the Russian T-72 tanks which was captured during formidable attacks by Islamic forces against the virtually destroyed Iraqi army is shown in the photo. Russian advisors have said there is no basis to claims as to the capture or destruction of modern T-72 tanks!



Young members of the Mobilization and the Revolutionary Guard are shown making praiseworthy efforts in the maintenance and reconstruction of tanks and other weapons captured from the enemy.

9310

CSO: 4640/415

NEUTRAL SHIPPERS BRAVE KHARG ISLAND WAR ZONE

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 18 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

BERGEN, Norway, August 16 (Dispatches) — A spokesman for the Johan Rekstem Shipping Company in Bergen said Monday night that they have no plans to stop the 219,000 ton supertanker Hadrian, now on its way to Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal.

Spokesman Besse Nilsen said that the situation in the Persian Gulf had not changed very much since last week. "We try to keep ourselves informed about the situation from hour to hour and will stop the tanker when we fear there might be any safety risks either for the ship or her crew Mr. Nilsen said.

Iraq's President Saddam Hussein threatened on Sunday to bomb all tankers approaching Kharg Island, irrespective of their nationality.

"We have no indications that it is particularly risky to approach Kharg Island, and the area around the oil terminal is not internationally characterized as a war zone," Mr. Nilsen said.

"Iraq has for a long time been threatening tankers sailing on Kharg Island, but so far nothing dramatic has happened," Mr. Nilsen said, adding that Iran's navy is very keen on giving the tankers effective protection.

On several occasions, the Iraqi Air Force has attempted to prevent the pumping and loading of oil at the Kharg terminal, located some 20 kms (12 miles) off the Iranian port of Bushehr and directly across from Kuwait.

But the raids have failed to interrupt oil shipments from the island which, according to certain foreign military experts here, is heavily guarded by the Iranian Air Force.

Following Syria's recent decision to ban Iraqi oil transits through its territory, and with the closing off early in the war of the Shatt-el-Arab Waterway, Iraq is now only able to export its crude by way of Turkey.

But Iran, after an initial drop in oil exports at the beginning of the war, has built up its exports, with most shipments sailing from Kharg.

According to recent estimates, Iran is currently exporting 1.6 to 2.1 million barrels a day, thereby enabling the country to build up its financial reserves. Barter deals also enable Tehran to sustain its war effort and import basic necessities.

IRAN

BIG RING, SELLING EXILES' PROPERTY, DISCOVERED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jul 82 p 2

[Text] Seyyed Khandan--KEYHAN correspondent: Fifty members of Tehran's largest land-grabbing ring, which sold the unused lands and confiscated properties of exiled counterrevolutionaries and registered the sales in forged registries with forged seals in offices, document storage facilities, the Lands and Development Organization, and the Mayor's offices were arrested by the Islamic Revolutionary Prosecutor's revolutionary guards stationed at the Mayor's offices.

This ring, with the cooperation of some employees of the Lands and Development Organization, the Mayor's office and the clerks' offices, illegally bought and sold more than 100 million tuman's worth of land and real estate and every deal involved enormous bribes. Concerning this brother Seyyed Mohammad Taqi-Sajjadi, supervisor of the Revolutionary Islamic Prosecutor's Office in the Tehran Municipality, said during an exclusive interview with KEYHAN: A number of clerks' offices, executives, influence peddlers, speculators, and employees in the registries and the Lands and Development Organization had a hand in these dealings. Some of these groups took up to 300,000 tumans in bribes in certain instances, and dated documents for the sale of unused municipal lands belonging to feudalists, big landowners, and exiled counterrevolutionaries and also confiscated property which had taken place in 1360 [21 Mar 1981-20 Mar 1982] as having taken place in 1346 [21 Mar 1967-20 Mar 1968] and 1358 [21 Mar 1979-20 Mar 1980] in forged registries with forged seals. Among those arrested in this ring was Engineer 'Abbas'ali Arbabiyan, Technical Director of the Lands and Development Organization who was formerly Chairman of the Board of Directors and Acting Director of the Municipal Lands and Development Organization of Khorasan who was purged for interfering with revolutionary organizations and later became Technical Director of the Lands and Development Organization in Tehran. He gave the names and identities of a group of this ring's insiders as follows: The official clerical recording offices which played a part in this inhuman affair are: Official Recording Office Number 15, under the supervision of 'Abd ol-Samad Ashtiyani, Official Recording Office Number 178, under the supervision of Reza Seyf Amir-Hoseyni, Official Recording Office Number 244, under the supervision of Al Eshaq Masah, and Official Recording Office Number 17, under the supervision of Hedayati Rurisheh'i. The ring's brokers and influence peddlers include: Mozaffar Bigleri, Haji Khanjani,

Asadollah Sheybani (speculator), Morad Dehqani, and 'Ali Eqbaliyan (an iron broker). The names of landowners whose lands were sold illegally by this group are: Rostam Mehrabani, Arbab Jamshid Mehrabani, and Keykhosrow Mehrebani. Those in the offices who registered this ring's forged registries are: In the Qolhak Registry, Seyyed 'Ali Asghar Farishi, Director of the Office of Property Registration, in the Shemiran Registry, 'Ali Akbar Naq'i, an official in the Property Holding Office, in the Southern Registry, Farrokh Mashayekhi, in the Western Registry, Rahim Vesal.

Arrested persons in the Tehran Development Organization who undertook to accept bribes, issue development papers, or did other things to make it easier for the landgrabbers are: Engineer 'Ali Arbabiyan, Amir Hushang Mehrju, Sirius Peykari, Akbar Qazi, Salman Gelich, and Hoseyn Jam.

The details of this report will be published in the next issue of KEYHAN.

9310

CSO: 4640/417

IRAN

PLOT ALLEGED TO RUIN IRAN'S CAVIAR MARKET

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Jul 82 p 14

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Gholam Reza Fazel, chief of Office of Public Relations and Propaganda of the Main Department of Fisheries of Mazandaran Province]

[Text] Babolsar--Some time ago the German newspaper SPIEGEL printed a false item to the effect that "Large quantities of caviar from Iran are being smuggled into Western European countries, most of which is poor quality." In order to further study the specifics of this matter and to learn more about caviar fishing and the regulations as to its exportation, KEYHAN's Babolsar correspondent talked with Hojjat ol-Eslam Gholam Reza Fazel, chief of the Office of Public Relations and Propaganda of the Main Department of Fisheries of Mazandaran Province, in a conversation reprinted below:

He began by discussing how caviar fishing is done and the manner of obtaining it and said: The fishing is done at certain times of the year and involves the caviar fishermen placing a net into the ocean to catch the fish that have caviar. Every day the fishermen go into the ocean in their boats, take the fish which they have caught out of the nets, and deliver them to the nearest fishery station. There workers and fishery employees ashore first remove the caviar from the belly of the fish. Then they put it in special steel tubs and after straining it and weighing it they mix a certain percentage of a special salt into it imported from the Soviet Union. After it is prepared they put it into special cans marked with the fishery brand and keep it in coolers kept at a certain temperature. Then they send it to the province of Gilan for packing.

Concerning the regulations for exporting caviar and the countries to which caviar is exported, Hojjat ol-Eslam Fazel said: Actually exports are usually done under the supervision of the Iranian Board of Fisheries through the General Fisheries Office in the province of Gilan. Before the revolution caviar was exported to the European countries, America, and the Soviet Union, but after the splendid revolution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and with this war which has been imposed on us by the American superpower and

Great Satan through its mercenary Saddam Takriti and also since America and the Western nations have placed our dear country under economic sanctions, exports have not been at their former level and have fluctuated.

The chief of the Office of Public Relations and Propaganda of the Main Department of Fisheries of Mazandaran Province said the following concerning the news item published in the German newspaper SPIEGEL on 15 May 82 pertaining to the export of smuggled caviar from Iran and the fact that it was spoiled: Considering Iran's striking struggles which have delivered fatal blows to Eastern and Western imperialism and have thwarted and defeated the enemy's plots one after another, fortunately the people of the world, especially the Muslim nations of the world, have perceived the greatness of the revolution and the crimes of the Great Satans led by America. The enemy is trying to portray Iran as an aggressor, traitor, and bungling country in various ways through the use of poison propaganda and there is nothing new about this propaganda and these lies. Recently the German newspaper SPIEGEL with its mercenary Arab reporter has published an article about caviar smuggling. Considering the fact that the matter of the sale of caviar and sturgeon has acquired a political dimension since the triumph of the revolution and especially in the imposed war, the enemy is trying to spread the lie among European nations and all non-Muslim nations that the Iranian revolution is the arch enemy of non-Muslims which has even taken to using caviar as a weapon and sending spoiled caviar to those countries. Our caviar is packed in special boxes and standardized cans bearing the fisheries' trademark and packed under the supervision of the Fisheries Inspection Service of Iran and is also sent to purchasing countries with supervision by a special representative of that country. Considering these facts spreading rumors of this kind can be nothing but the ill will of our enemies arising out of their weakness and defeat before the Islamic revolution of Iran.

9310

CSO: 4640/417

MINISTER DISCUSSES PROBLEMS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 19 Aug 82 p 2

[Interview with Health Minister Dr Manafi by Abbas Barazandeh]

[Text]

TEHRAN - Health Minister Dr Manafi addressing a press conference here yesterday asked Iranian mass media which brings up various issues and discusses problems, related to health and medical matters, to explain and evaluate for the Iranian nation the inherent factors and obstacles for their solution.

Dr. Manafi further asked the propaganda centers to explain to the people that the Health Ministry is in the service of this nation.

During his press conference, he stressed that the Health Ministry has always insisted on reopening of medical science centers and hoped that the Cultural Revolution Headquarters had plans to take in new students in the coming Autumn.

Talking on the reasons behind the deficiencies and shortages in the field of medical affairs, he said, "We should confess that we are facing a severe shortage in physicians" adding that "we will be unable to remove this crucial difficulty until we train the needed committed physicians."

The Health Minister was asked to explain the reason behind the establishment of a new Ministry of Sanitation, Health and Medical Training. He remarked that "the goal was to allocate all existing facilities for training of the needed cadre of physicians in the country and we hope that by setting up such a ministry we can use all the existing 50,000 beds in hospitals and governmental health centers in the service and training of physicians."

Focussing on the same subject, he commented that the general points of the plan for Ministry of Sanitation, Health and Medical Training has been submitted to the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) through the Cultural Revolution Headquarters. These general points have been already ratified by the Majlis while details and the manner of the implementation of this plan are being provided by the Cultural Revolution Headquarters, he added.

Referring to the selec-

tion of the medical students he said that after the closure of universities and taking into account the 2-year performance of the Cultural Revolution Headquarters, "we believe that with the help of Allah, we will admit a group of new medical students in universities after a public university examination."

Later, the report quoted the Deputy of the Health Minister in Charge of Health Affairs, Dr. Niknejad who pointed to the shortage of medicines in the country and said that "it was the Health Ministry which specifies the policy in the field of medicine but the provision and distribu-

tion of medicines are the responsibility of the Ministries of Commerce, Industries, Customs Department, banks and Port Affairs Centers of the country.

Continuing he said that at present 570 items of 'generic' drugs together with others now sold in the market add up to 990 items of medicines in the country of which 350 items were imported and the rest produced here.

In regard to the import of medicines, he pointed out that prior to the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, 30 to 35 billion rials in milk and medical equipment were imported.

CSO: 4600/738

PRESIDENT: IRAN AIR OPERATING WITHOUT FOREIGNERS

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 22 Aug 82 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN, Aug. 21 (IRNA)

— President Khamene'i was met this morning by the managing director of Iran Air (the Airline of the Islamic Republic of Iran). Muhammad Sepehri Rad, and a group of personnel, pilots and the staff of the executive section of the Hajj transportation project of Nigeria.

Submitting a report to the president, Sepehri Rad said that for the first time Iran Air had allocated some of its international aircraft for the transportation of Nigerian pilgrims to and from Nigeria.

President Khamene'i said that the Iran Air had been changed into one of the best serving and safest aviation organizations in the world due to the efforts of its devoted personnel. The president added that the personnel of the organization had maintained and improved upon the services of the

organization without foreign expertise, and had thereby proved that their organization could continue to work as well without depending on foreign expertise.

President Khamene'i noted that Iran Air and its staff shouldered a potentially more significant responsibility in that they were "roving ambassadors" from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The president addressed the Iran Air personnel and said, "Your conduct, your character and your words reflect the realities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and should therefore you must be ever conscious of the heavy responsibility you are shouldering."

He also called the airline's staffers "messengers for the Islamic Revolution and for the Islamic Republic of Iran".

CSO: 4600/738

IRAN SEEN AS 'MOST POWERFUL REGIONAL FORCE'

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 19 Aug 82 p 2

[Editorial by Zainab: "Saddam Lying and Falling With the Aid of His Friends"]

[Text]

It is now more than 23 months since Saddam Hussein of Iraq launched his vast military aggression against the budding Islamic Republic, supported and accompanied by a parallel propaganda offensive directed by the systems of world imperialism. By now, it is clear for anyone that Saddam, while enjoying material and political backing from the imperialist capitals also benefits from their media which orchestrate his constant exaggerations. Baseless ultimatums and threats rising from Baghdad and mainly Saddam himself constitutes a large portion of these propaganda machinations. Iraq's unfounded intimidations serve as a basic routine for Western news agencies who endeavor to create a favorable atmosphere for the promotion of their interests through publicizing such shallow falsehoods.

During the past few days Saddam and his agents have put all their energies in threatening to bomb Iranian ports, especially Kharg Island's oil terminal. Of course, the media in turn have played their role well in stretching and repeating the issue so as to create an atmosphere of insecurity in the Persian Gulf and a feeling of uncertainty among the commercial partners of the Islamic Republic, who have come to realize the political and economic stability of the Islamic Republic and are more favorably inclined to establish trade relations with Iran.

Although ABC and VOA and similar organs have spent their time elaborating on this issue during the past weeks, there are clear indications that these endeavors have had little effect in changing the determination of Iran's trade partners. A clear proof of this fact is the recent news of a Norwegian oil tanker which continued to approach the Persian Gulf and whose captain has denied

that any dangers await his ship or crew.

This of course is due to the strong and conscientious defense network that the Iranian Navy and Air Force have constructed around these ports and installations and the protection that they have provided for commercial vessels and fleets that arrive in the Persian Gulf. Hence, Saddam's repeated attempts to realize his shop-worn threats have become frustrated in succession, causing him to resort to bombing Iran's residential areas. The savage bombings of Hamedan, Abadan, Dezful and other cities all testify to this fact.

These cowardly acts will doubtless continue now that the change of venue of the Non-Aligned Movement's Seventh Summit from Baghdad has been announced and Saddam views his political death approaching fast. Saddam has no potential for realizing such ultimatums. Saddam, who has been mauled by the rising crest of the Muslim Iraqi Mujahideen's activities is not in a position to voice such threats unless he is encouraged and supported by certain regional governments to act accordingly.

Since the day Saddam launched his attack on the Islamic Revolution, his military and economic forces have been in a decline, despite the West's generous help and aid packages to this hireling. Saddam's internal security has deteriorated, foreign firms have gradually become reluctant to deal with him and in international fora, Saddam has lost much face. This condition prevails despite the undeniable propaganda and material support that he receives.

On the other hand the Islamic Republic, contrary to all material calculations, has succeeded in promoting its cultural, political and economic ties with the Non-Aligned countries of the world. It has shown itself to be a capable and stable government worthy of reliance vis-a-vis its trade partners. Although economic and political pressures against the Islamic Republic have escalated, the country has achieved major victories in the war and in facing internal problems. This has all been due to the grace of God and the faith of the Iranian nation in Islam and their leaders. Once again the lever of faith has proven heavier than that of force.

What remains to be said here is the fact that today the Islamic Republic, which has emerged as the most powerful regional force, is quite capable of taking reprisals against its offenders. This time there is no guarantee that Saddam's allies, who have devoted all their might to keep this dead man standing, will remain unscathed. As mentioned before it is evident that Saddam's situation does not allow him to make such statements solo. There are certain elements which animate this mortally wounded beast to proceed with his crimes. These elements must know they have no reason to believe they will remain unharmed once the brave Islamic forces of Iran decide to retaliate against the enemies of God.

BRIEFS

AHVAZ POWER GENERATOR--AHVAZ, Aug. 18 (IRNA)--A 32 megawatt gas-operated electrical generator of the Zargan power plant in Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, was linked with Iran's national power network last night. This unit, earlier damaged by enemy air attacks during the war, was repaired by a group of committed workers and technicians of Iran. Two other gas-operated electrical generators of the Zargan power plant will be linked with the state power network in another two to three months. [Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 19 Aug 82 p 2]

CSO: 4600/736

DRUZE DEEPLY DIVIDED OVER GOLAN ISSUE

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27, 30, 31 May 82

[27 May 82 p 15]

[Text] It is twilight in Daliyat al-Carmel, the largest Druze village in Israel. At this hour last Thursday, women from every corner of the village were going to the house of prayer. All were dressed in traditional Druze clothing and with a smile invited my host, television reporter Rafiq Halabi, to join in the service. "Pray for me," answered Rafiq with a smile. Smiles and invitations came from all around: "Shalom. How are You? Come on in!" A light wind is blowing through the hills of the Carmel and the groups of women walking toward the prayer house, the hems of their skirts playing in the wind, contribute to the pastoral feeling.

Even the polite offering of Shayk Halabi, who picked two roses from the garden and gave them to Rafiq and his guest, "as a gesture of friendship," and the exemplary manner of every shopkeeper in the large commercial district of this village, add to the impression. For a moment, it appears to the outsider that he has landed on an island full of happy people giving him an unprecedented welcome.

In May of 1982, however, this is but a nice cover for the feelings this group is painfully experiencing following the events in the Golan Heights. There was a crisis which brought to the surface only some of the frustrations, uncertainties and in many cases bitter feelings these people harbor toward Israeli policy and what the Druze call the "blood pact" with the Jews in the State of Israel. There are those among the Druze, especially among the youth, who say that until 1948 there was no "blood pact" between Druze and Jews in Israel, but rather blood rivalries. A similar opinion has been expressed by the well-known Druze poet Samih al-Kasm, a member of the Rakah central committee who has clearly stated that the Druze are Arabs in every way and that the Druze religion is part of Islam. On the other hand, there are those who say that the Druze are a separate ethnic group in no way related to the Arabs or Islam. They are Druze-Zionists who say that deep in their hearts they are dedicated to Israel and Zionism. They are well represented by Amal Nasir al-Din from Daliyat al-Carmel, a Knesset member from the Likud (Herut). These, however, are the extremes--right and left--within the Druze population.

The Druze like to live in a fog, say Rafiq Halabi, and you must not push them into reality. That's dangerous. Any time you push a Druze into a situation of reality, he will come back with demagoguery, Rafiq continued. Over 40,000 Druze live today in 16 villages in the Carmel area. In the Galilee and the Golan Heights there are about 10,000 Druze in four villages. It appears that most of the Druze in the Galilee and Carmel prefer the middle path between the Zionist Druze and the Druze "initiation committee" which says they are Arab in every way.

Means of Existence

Dr Kayas Faro from the village of Usafiya teaches Middle East economics and heads the Druze research division at Haifa University. I met him on a Saturday, after he had finished giving a preparatory course for the matriculation exams to youngsters from Daliyat al-Carmel at the village Center for Youth, Culture and Sports, the only such facility in any Druze village. There are strands of gray in his hair but his face is young, even boyish. He is pleasant and polite. His Hebrew is fluent. He weighs every word carefully before he speaks. He did his doctorate in France on the influence of the port city Marseille on the economic policy of France relative to the Middle East over the last few hundred years.

Dr Kayas Faro says: "If there is a Druze problem in Israel, it is a problem throughout the Middle East. You cannot separate the Druze from what is happening everywhere in the area. We have to analyze the present and understand it within the context and perspective of the past. The Druze were able to survive in this area due to two factors--because they lived high in the mountains, isolated from the surrounding community and because of "Tekiya" (a tradition among the Shiites--the Druze broke away from Isma'iliya, one of the Shiite sects--which dictates that in an area where power is in the hands of people who do not share their beliefs, they should try to be as much like the ruling class as possible, to avoid danger and persecution. Tekiya is the essence of this way of life)."

The first factor, the mountains, is physical. The second factor, Tekiya, is spiritual. At first the Druze were not mountain people. There is evidence that the Druze religion spread in cities like Antioch, Damascus, Halab, Cairo and Ramlah. The Druze, then, were an urban people and their religious doctrine was based (in the 11th and 12th centuries) on neo-Platonic Greek philosophy. Village and mountain people, according to Dr Faro, would have found it difficult to accept a doctrine of this kind. The transition from the cities to mountains was designed to preserve the faith.

According to him, the Druze were at first part of the Isma'ili movement (which broke away, as stated above) whose doctrines became more radical and further than others from the Suni Islamic doctrine. At first, they used Tekiya the same as other Isma'ili sects did. But the Druze Tekiya was also directed toward the Isma'ilis and therefore somewhat different-stronger, designed to preserve their unity. In this way, according to Dr Faro, one

can explain why the Druze are trying to prove to the Sunis and others in Islam that they were part of Islam (according to Shiite Islam researcher Dr Etan Kolberg of the Hebrew University, the distinction is simple: he who does not believe in the Koran is not Muslim. The Druze do not believe in the Koran and therefore are not Muslim).

During the rise of the Druze religion, Dr Faro continues, there were two pogroms against the Druze (called "Mihna"--a term borrowed from the Shiite meaning tribulation and persecution). Mihna became a myth among the Druze. Even recently, in the Golan, the Druze talked about it. When they feel persecuted, they speak of Mihna. The term recurs throughout Druze history. When the religion was rising, many Druze fled to the mountains, but some remained in the city and there were even those who served the Khalif al-Dahar, who persecuted the Druze. They tried to assimilate into the ruler's administration to protect their people.

If we look at primary sources from the Ayubid and Mamluk periods, we find no mention of the Druze (except for one note by the traveler Benyamin Metudela). Why? Because outwardly they appeared to be Isma'ilis who fought in the Crusades like other Muslims. In spite of this, according to historic research we find that Tekiya did not always work to convince the central government that the Druze were really Muslims. There was a "Fatwa" (a formal legal opinion in response to a religious question) proffered by one of the great Sunni wisemen in the Mamluk period, Ibn-Taymiya, stating that the Druze living in Lebanon were not Muslim. He suggested eliminating them.

Similar fatwas exist from the Ottoman period. Every time a crisis erupted between the Druze princes in Lebanon and the government, fatwas of this kind were offered by Sunni wisemen. Despite these factors, the Druze used Tekiya and continued to do so until recently (i.e., to be like the majority ruling party to avoid danger and persecution) to preserve their religious particularism.

Religious Particularism

It should be noted, Dr Faro continues, that in the same period there were no pan-Arabic sentiments but a pan-Islam feeling. Therefore, the Druze could not develop a truly nationalist feeling during that period. European researchers are divided on the question of the origin of the Druze people, says Dr Kayas. Some say that the Druze are of Arab extraction--tribes that adopted the Druze religion. There are those who claim that the Druze are Persian or derive from other ethnic groups which originated in the Middle East. There is no decisive answer. The important thing, according to Dr Faro, is what the Druze think about themselves. The Druze developed a theory that they were of Arab extraction. It is possible that this theory was an outgrowth of Tekiya. As far as culture, the Druze do not differ from the residents of greater Syria, says Dr Faro. Even using anthropological methods, the conclusion would be that the Druze culture is

much like that of the other religious schools in greater Syria. He believes that the Druze were part of an Arab culture even prior to the 11th century and that therefore the Druze religion is written in the Arabic language.

Why do the Druze have identification problems in the State of Israel? In Dr Faro's opinion (poet Samih al-Kasm holds the opposite opinion), when the State of Israel was established in 1948 the Druze did not have an Arab nationalist feeling as did other Arab groups. The Druze in Israel were the most particularistic community in the Middle East. In Syria and Lebanon they had already participated in the revolt of 1925 and perhaps their involvement dates back even earlier. They had integrated into the Arab nationalist movement. It may be true that in 1948 there were those among the Druze who had Arab nationalist feelings. But the majority of those living in Israel were apathetic toward concepts like nationalism. At that time they still felt that they were a separate sect. There were those who cooperated with the Arabs and those who cooperated with the Jews.

The identity of the Druze in Israel was influenced, in Dr Faro's opinion, by two factors--religious particularism and Israeli policy, which since 1948 has encouraged particularism. This policy is reflected in the change on the "nationality" line on identity cards from "Arab" to "Druze, in the fact that they serve in the army, and in separate education.

There is a Druze problem throughout the Middle East, says Dr Faro. Both Jews and Arabs do not understand it. We want to maintain our ethnic solidarity throughout the Middle East, but it is not easy. The Druze are conscripted into Arab armies in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. And in Israel we are conscripted into the IDF. In Syria there have even been Druze chiefs of the general staff and Druze pilots. Under the current administration of Habbat, who is basically Alwaili, there is the opposite trend--to gloss over ethnic differences.

Why did the Druze leadership in the Golan lead the struggle against accepting Israeli identification cards? In his opinion it was because the religious leadership believed that the issue was not political but that it touched on the fate of the Druze not just in the Golan Heights, but also in Syria and Lebanon, and therefore on the need to preserve their identity. At times like that, the entire leadership rallies for self-preservation.

[30 May 82 p 9]

[Text] "...it was only yesterday
that we stomped in contempt...
and we thought our roots would not die
and we thought our blood would not flow without revenge"

This is a verse from the poem "No and No" by the man who is considered the "leftist leader" of the Druze people, the poet Samih al-Qasim from the

village of Rama, who says that "the issue of the Druze in Israel is like a Greek tragedy." Samih al-Qasim (age 43) looks younger than his years. He was perhaps the first to carry the revolutionary banner against the traditional leadership that stood for "Druze unity" against full "Arabization" which he supports. I met with Samih in the offices of Rakah's daily newspaper AL-ITTIHAD in Haifa, where he works. He is busy establishing a new Arab-Israeli theater. He is a member of Rakah's central committee and the most important Druze in the party.

In addition to the various political struggles he has engaged in over the last 25 years, mainly against the conscription of Druze citizens into the IDF, al-Qasim is considered to be one of the most important Palestinian poets, not just in Israel but in the Middle East. In the book by Shimon Blas, "Arab Literature in the Shadow of War," it was said, among things (pp 332-334): "In his short novel, 'Who Cares About the Lilacs,' which also bears the subtitle 'An Autobiography,' Samih al-Qasim tries to describe in an expressionist mode the course of his life from the day his village was conquered by the Israeli army until he reached his current elevated status, in his eyes and in the eyes of his people. As a spokesman for the Palestinian resistance, Samih al-Qasim throws doubt on the effectiveness of the efforts of Jewish groups like the 'Children of Shem,' where he has been invited to help establish an understanding between Jews and Arabs in the State of Israel. 'You say that your ties to the land were denied to you for 2000 years,' he tells them, 'and how do you expect our people to forget their ties to this land after half a millenium? Shem, Ham and Japhet are antecedents which do not interest me. I lost a real homeland, in its entirety--earth, roads, trees, people, cities, shops, villages, furnishings, clothing, coffee and the like. I lost a homeland in good condition, 100 percent ready for service. That homeland was not transplanted to another planet. It is still on this earth and you know where it is.

The various governments of Israel are principally responsible for the Greek tragedy of the Druze people, as Samih al-Qasim defines it, beginning with the Ben Gurion government and including the Begin regime. This is because their policies toward the Druze sect were, in his opinion, an inseparable part of the overall Israeli orientation toward Arabs in Israel, and were based, he says, on a nationalist, antagonistic point of departure with respect to Israel's Arab citizens and all those defined as "Goys." The military government did not start from a positive point of departure in relation to all Arabs in Israel, including the Druze.

Samih al-Qasim continues: "A situation was created where a Druze who was going to watch a ceremonial military event in which his son the soldier was participating, had to stand on line at the military governor's window to get a permit for the occasion. This is an example of the State of Israel's duplicity toward the Druze. This duplicity began even before that, in 1956 when the administration, based on a policy of 'divide and conquer,' chose the Druze and Bedouins, even Catholics, and suggested that they request to be inducted into the IDF according to the law of obligatory conscription.

Why do I say duplicity? Because the same story is being repeated now in the Golan. The administration wanted the Druze to ask to be Israeli nationals. They wanted to have them sign contracts, as if they were asking for Israeli identity cards. In my opinion, that proves that the administration sees the Druze as less than human beings.

Degradation

That kind of treatment is degrading. Even in 1956 there was resistance against obligatory conscription into the IDF among the Druze. It was a big movement, in villages in the Golan and Carmel areas. The movement was based on two main factors: a. If you want to induct us, induct all the Arabs. We are Arabs, too. The fact that you are inducting us is degrading. We are being degraded in the eyes of our people. b. The administration claims that they don't want to induct Arabs for humane reasons. Why aren't we entitled to the same humane considerations? You are sending us to the front where we will be facing our own family.

"Every disgrace that I condemn appears as a clause in the 'Kenig Report.'" This should be quoted because it is just and true: the governments of Israel made a practice of ferreting out violent elements among the Arabs and appointing them to leadership positions. These elements protected their own interests and the interests of those close to them, at the expense of the general interest. That is now they conducted their policy toward the Druze. They said: If you want to be a good citizen, you must reject your Arab nationality. In the miserable situation following the Palestinian defeat in 1948, people were confused. Everyone was in shock. What disgrace could be greater? I feel personally degraded when people say to me: 'You're not Arab!'

I was the first in the Druze sect to resist army service and I was treated cruelly and sadistically. They offered me a compromise--to be an unsalaried teacher in the army, to go for a 2 and 1/2 year course to be a medic, or to go to jail and be treated like a prisoner of war. I wanted to be a citizen with equal rights, with self-respect. And I saw that they were only degrading me. During my struggle against conscription, slogans were painted on billboards in Galilee and Carmel villages: 'We're with you Samih al-Qasim!' or 'More power to you, Samih al-Qasim!' This showed me what was really deep inside our youth. Instead of making me an equal citizen, with respect as a point of departure, they turned me into a sworn enemy. The tragedy is that I will never forget. A compelling majority of the Druze people think about getting revenge some day!

The talk of a 'blood pact' between Jews and Druze is a lie from a historical point of view. Until 1948 the Druze were the bravest fighters against the Jews. There were bloodbaths between Jews and Druze, not blood pacts. On a personal basis there were those who cooperated with the Jews. As a group, the Druze fought against the Jewish forces as part of the Arab protest, including the Druze in Lebanon and Syria. They fought bravely

and persistently. I remember to this day the Jewish armored unit that was stationed in the village of Rama during the 1948 war, pitted by bullets and explosives. Above it was written: Druze Keep Out. I remember to this day Druze from Bayt-Jan, Rama, and Be'er who came on farm vehicles, carrying rifles, to fight the Jews. There was a bloody conflict, not a blood pact. The most bitter group was the Druze settlement near Shfar'am.

They should have come to us and said: We were at war with each other. We will not impinge on your rights, your land or your national respect. On that basis, the State of Israel might have achieved more friendship and understanding with the Arab population, by treating them as people and not as a fifth column. It is clear to me that to demand that kind of treatment is utopian, because the policy from day one was based on expelling all the Arabs from the country and establishing a pure Jewish State. The fundamental policy was based on "divide and conquer," on hatred, superiority and racism against all Goys. All the nonsense about special treatment of the Druze had no basis.

National Respect

Close to 70 percent of the Druze land was expropriated. The first contact between Jews and Druze in this country was when the Druze were driven from Metula in the last century and the second contact was on the battle field. I want to see better relations between Jews and Arabs, including Jews and Druze--I sat in jail toward that end. I want to see a new kind of relationship between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East. But peaceful, neighborly relations can only be based on the establishment of a new situation, a new approach. This would first and foremost require that the Government of Israel open its eyes to reality. A Chinese proverb states 'A man who fights the ocean is crazy.' There is no point in discussing a Christian State in Southern Lebanon or a blood pact with the Druze. Those are imperialist dreams from the primitive stages of the world. Israel's rulers are behaving like superior British or French rulers.

I claim that I represent the majority of the Druze, not in the party sense, but as far as feelings. I have been in political life for 25 years and I know that what I am saying sounds difficult. But there is no choice. If we really are interested in better relations we have to be honest and not lie. Relations between nations and peoples cannot be based on lies. The incitement among the Druze in Israel is not the result of what happened in the Golan. That was just a symptom. There are hard feelings among the Druze, a feeling that someone wants to insult them, deprive them of their national pride and personal respect.

In 1980 UNESCO conducted a study and discovered that Brazil had the smallest percentage of students in the world--12 students to every 1000 people. A Druze committee conducted research within the Druze community in Israel and discovered that for every 1000 Druze there are only 3 students. We have the lowest percentage of academics in the world! Worse than Brazil!

I've been through bitter moments. Very difficult times. But one thing always saved me--love. Love for my people, the people of my sect on the one hand and on the other hand, a very deep sense of historic responsibility toward the relations between local peoples--Arabs and Jews, Arabs and Kurds, Arabs and Barbers in Algeria. I want a life of respect, peace and creativity. I've traveled a great deal throughout the world, through various countries under totally different regimes and always I asked myself: Good lord! Why is the treatment I receive in every airport in the world different than the treatment I receive in my own country? Why can a Russian man and a Kirgiz woman walk arm in arm in Moscow without creating a national emotional storm, while in Israel an Arab man walking with a Jewish woman in the street creates a sensation?"

[31 May 82 pp 9, 10]

[Text] Until recently, the three most important families in the Druze community in Israel, both under British and Israeli rule, were the Kayar family from Kfar Yasif, the Mu'adi family from Irka and the Tarif family from Julis--says Rafiq Halabi, Israeli television reporter in the territories and one of the most well-known Druze in Israel (and in the world). Rafiq Halabi, who is frequently attacked for the content of his broadcasts, has become famous and respected by many within his community, but also hated by others, says that both under British and Israeli rule the three families divided important functions among themselves.

During the British period, a member of the Kayar family was district commander. The Mu'adi family was involved in politics and religious matters were handled by the Tarif family. Today, says Rafiq, one of the Kayar's (Kamal) is a district judge. The former Knesset member Jabar Mu'adi stepped down from his seat following the murder of Bedouin Knesset member Abu-Rabi'a, when his sons were found guilty of the crime. The position of the two other Druze Knesset members who held posts until recently (Shafiq Asad, formerly of DASH, then with the Likud; and Zaydan Atasha from Usafiya, a member of "Change") is weak and declining.

The only one left, says Rafiq, is MK Amal Nasir al-Din (a Herut man from Rafiq Halabi's village, Daliyat al-Carmel), and because the majority of the Druze lean to the left, he is a loner (Amal Nasir al-Din, of course, would take exception with that). There are no more leaders, Rafiq Halabi continues, like Laviv Abu-Ruchan from Usafiya or Tsalah Hanaifas from Hurpais. Those two, together with Jabar Mu'adi, created ties with the Jewish settlements as far back as the 1930's. Those three Knesset members, he says, were the official leaders of the Druze in Israel. After their decline, the community was not able to find another set of leaders, or in the words of Rafiq: "The religious leader, Shayk Amin Tarif, is over eighty and there is no one else in his family capable of succeeding him. The Kayar family has collapsed and the Mu'adi family lost its hegemony. No one has risen to replace them. We have become like the Jews. We have no serious leadership, neither political nor spiritual, with values."

An Answer for the Youth

In the preface to his book "Forecast, Hope and Fact--A Summary of my Activities in the 9th Knesset as a Member of the Likud in Service to the Druze, my People my Homeland and my Country, the Land of Israel," MK Amal Nasir al-Din wrote, among other things: "...My brothers in the Druze community do not see themselves as a minority in the State, but as equal citizens with equal rights and responsibilities, equal partners in the great accomplishment of having built a state in this historical land and equal partners to the natural right to settle and protect that state. That sounds like a reading from the Zionist "Mishna," but the Druze in Israel are Zionists, because they have tied their fate in with that of the Jews in Eretz Israel and with the fate of every Jew in the world...The Druze feel that they have a right based on being the first to establish the state, a mystical right because they were among the first to build, renew and establish a Jewish State. This feeling is part of the Druze belief system, because on each and every holiday, in each and every passage, more than a hint ties the fate of the Druze in the future with the people of Israel in the land of Israel. With the return to Zion comes salvation for the Druze, too--those who are there (negative comments from across the border or from isolated elements in the Golan Heights should not be seen as representative of the Druze)--salvation from thousands of years of persecution, a departure from anonymity and a transition from a limited life to a life of religious, nationalist freedom...."

Amal Nasir al-Din, "the right-wing leader" of the Druze people in Israel, received me in the large living room of his home in Daliyat al-Carmel. Last Saturday, when hundreds of Israelis came to the Druze village in Israel to buy "bargains" of all kinds--dresses from the Far East and copperware and ceramics from Galilee villages--Mk al-Din delineated his theory on the "Zionist-Druze." Amal Nasir al-Din, a good looking man in his fifties, a devoted father whose son fell on his last day of service in the IDF during a retaliatory action in the Arava.

In an interview printed in his book it was said of MK Nasir al-Din: "As a Druze, loyal to the State of Israel, Amal served in the IDF and fought in the Kadesh War and the Six-Day War and was even among those to receive the ALEH--a special decoration for soldiers having fought in five wars. In 1970 MK Nasir al-Din left the Labor Party and moved to Herut, which in his book is explained as follows: "Toward the end of 1970 Amal came to the conclusion that the Labor Party was not ready to recognize the fact that the Druze contributed to the State of Israel and took upon themselves all the obligations imposed on Jewish citizens in the State of Israel. The Labor Party was hesitant to give them the same rights as those given to Jews, fearing that this would reduce the number of Arab voters for the party...."

In the spacious living room of his home, under a large picture of Prime Minister Menahem Begin and campaign posters, MK Nasir al-Din told me: "As

long as we say that the Jews should do such and such for us and not us for ourselves, we are class "D" citizens, not class "B." The Arabs are now doing for themselves. I get my back up when I see our community leaders demanding that the Jews do things for us. In 1970 I resigned from the Labor Party. I said: My fellow Druze, the generation of youth that is following us will not agree with us. We must give them an alternative. The fact that ministers come to us and make hooplas and celebrations is not going to help. The next generation will ask why school children learn in rented rooms. Why do I have to go to the Arab section where alongside me sits a father whose son serves in the Fatah?

"I'm a Druze. I'm a minority. In this country there will always be a Jewish majority and that's how it has to be. Why do they expropriate my land? I said at the time that these were questions that demanded answers. And instead of answers, the advisor on Arab affairs at the time, Shmuel Toledano, told me that Sayf al-Din Zuwaybi gives him five Knesset members and we, the Druze, barely give him half a Knesset member. I got up and left. I joined Herut because I support their views on the subject of Eretz Israel and the rights of the Jewish people. Those Druze who want to deny the fact that the people of Israel have returned to their land are also denying that it is written in our religion. I'm not starting anything new. I'm faithful to my religion and to what my prophets have said.

One evening, a few days ago, I sat in the home of a Muslim Arab friend, and I have some good Muslim Arab friends. After a few glasses of whiskey, a secret came out--one of those present, who was dead drunk, said that the day would come when the Muslims would drive the Druze and all other non-Muslims from Israel. I told them that that was the reason we could not allow ourselves to lose even one time--because of what that Muslim said. If we wanted to, I told them, we could destroy all the neighboring countries. But we come down hard and react strongly only when we are placed in danger or when we are attacked."

The telephone in Amal Nasir al-Din's home does not stop ringing. This one is requesting a license, another needs something done for his son in the IDF. Amal Nasir al-Din answers each one politely and devotes no small amount of time to each call. He promises to arrange this and set up that. While we were talking in his living room, Druze from several villages in Israel were arriving at his home. They all waited patiently until we finished the interview.

And, MK Nasir al-Din continues: "The foundation of the Druze initiation committee was sound. The committee was established back under the Alignment to spur the administration to provide better conditions for the Druze. They pointed out dozens of shortcomings that the Alignment failed to take care of properly. At that juncture, the Alignment made the mistake of its life--it allowed the Druze leadership in the Alignment to malign them. They, including Jabar Mu'adi, started saying that the people of the initiation committee were worthless, that they were not nice people, that they were

against the State. They said that anyone who wanted equality was a Communist, not an Israeli. When they started attacking, the other side ran to find political shelter. Then, Samih al-Qasim took control and told them-- come to Rakah. And they did.

The tie between the Jews and the Druze was not born in 1948. I remember that during the upheavals of 1939, when the Jewish settlement numbered less than half a million people, the Druze enlisted and were given arms. In Daliyat al-Carmel, in Usafiya and in the Galilee there was full cooperation between the Druze and the Jewish policemen in the British police force. The Druze also saved the Jews during several incidents that same year, despite the fact that the Mufti's people were in control of the Galilee at the time. Labib Abu-Rukhan saved the life of Abu Hushi. He took him to the Druze mountain and saved his life. The same with Salah Hanaipas, who cooperated with the Jews in the same period."

The day before, in a conversation with the Druze educator Rafiq Halabi (not the television commentator but his relative, principal of the local school in Daliyat al-Carmel), I was told that at the time of the non-confidence vote in the Knesset this month, everything was contingent on one vote. If MK Amal Nasir al-Din had supported the government, he could have gained a great deal for the Druze people in terms of improving the situation in the Druze sector. But he did not say a word, even though he is now the only Knesset member from the Druze community (as compared with four Druze in the previous Knesset).

Amal Nasir al-Din reacts to this criticism with denials. The budget is not a problem. Usually they can get what they want. The policy is very open-handed, especially toward the Druze, he says. The problem, he claims, is what the budget is earmarked for. We need to change things for ourselves, and not think that the Jews will do everything for us. I, for example, initiated the establishment of a "Gibor" factory, with government aid (during Pinhas Sapir's rule, may he rest in peace) and independent economics for Druze and Jews.

Amal Nasir al-Din says: "The head of the council has to lead his community like a miniature state. He should know what the youth want, why, for example there aren't many students from the Druze community. Because they were not encouraged from primary school. They didn't see the head of the council visiting the school, calling a teachers' meeting. Every council head thinks he is a sheik. All he needs is a Kafiya and a big American car.

The previous evening I talked with three young Druze men. One of them, Sa'id Halabi, a major (reserves) in the IDF and a member of the Zionist-Druze group in Daliyat al-Carmel, vehemently defended their positions. There is no reason to complain too much, says Sa'id. The Druze are not discriminated against. The situation is good. Only at the end of the conversation did he reveal what was really bothering him: he left the IDF

because he felt prejudice there toward the Druze. Although the general command and the chief of staff had promised that he could take a command course, he was not given the opportunity--according to him, only because he was Druze.

I was an excellent officer, says Sa'id Halabi. Everyone told me that I was excellent. The General complimented me. All the officers did, too. I commanded Jews and I did not feel any prejudice. But the one thing I asked for they would not give me. Druze, he says, do not get to go to staff command courses. It has been unheard of since the establishment of the State.

Sa'id Halabi is not a Communist. He is not a member of the Druze initiation committee. He is a former, senior IDF officer who now belongs to the Zionist-Druze organization and serves the State of Israel faithfully. More than in any other meeting with Druze in Israel, I felt in my meeting with him that what Rafiq Halabi had said: "We are Jews when it comes to responsibilities, Arabs when it comes to rights"--was not far from the truth.

9811

CSO: 4423/173

UPCOMING ARAB SUMMIT EXAMINED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 287, 21 Aug 82 p 19

[Article by Mohamed al-Ashhab: "Lebanon and Syria To Take Part in September Summit; Morocco Adopts the Fahd Plan"]

[Text] Proposed summit to discuss everything of concern to Arabs: the Gulf war; Egypt's return to the Arab rank; the future of the Palestinian cause; and the Lebanese situation.

An announcement was made in Rabat that the preparatory conference of Arab ministers of foreign affairs would be held in Mohammedia on August 28. Some circles close to the government of Morocco stated that the summit meeting would be held on 6 December in Fes. Last minute preparations for the preparatory Arab meeting were underway earlier in Mohammedia, which is about 60 kilometers south of the capital on the Atlantic coast. In fact, people who were accompanying some Arab delegations had taken up positions in the city before the date for that meeting was announced. Intense communications continued until Monday morning, the 16th of this month, in an attempt to move the conference date up 4 or 5 days. That date was finally set for the 28th of this month.

Did the matter pertain only to the debate about setting a date for the preparatory conference of Arab ministers of foreign affairs and a date for the summit meeting that is to follow? An Arab League official said, "The matter is not that simple. Communications with Arab capitals conducted by the general secretariat of the Arab League, by the Saudi minister of foreign affairs and by his Moroccan counterpart went beyond this matter and overcame real difficulties that have to do with perceptions of Arab actions at this stage. These perceptions stem from an investigation into developments in the Arab situation, particularly on the Lebanese scene. Such an investigation is to take into account all unexpected possibilities.

In this context also an official Moroccan source told AL-MUSTAQBAL that the matter of timing went beyond being a formality. "The timing of the conference has to do with its substance because what matters is that all Arab parties have high-level representation at the conference. That representation is to be commensurate with the magnitude of the questions that will be discussed at this meeting." In a commentary on the subject the Moroccan newspaper AL-'ALAM, which is close to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ruled out thoughts of a military confrontation

and said that a political solution would be brought up for discussion once again. Arabs would have to summon up their powers to establish firmly a political solution that would ultimately restore the occupied land and establish a Palestinian homeland on the West Bank and Gaza Strip; liberate Arab Jerusalem; and work to bring about Israel's departure from Lebanon.

In this regard Moroccan officials assert that the Saudi peace plan will be at the forefront of the subjects that will be discussed at the Arab Summit Conference. The same source explained that talks about a Moroccan-Saudi alliance with regard to this matter would be misleading. The Saudi peace plan, which has acquired an Arab identity after it was proposed at the first Fes Summit, no longer belongs to anyone. It is a matter of priorities that the conference discuss what is on [its] agenda. Since Morocco is chairing the conference, it will bring up this plan for discussion.

During his recent travels, which included 10 Arab countries, Morocco's minister of foreign affairs discussed the matter with Arab officials. He affirmed that only the conference has the authority to adopt the plan, and he said that the summit would be open to discussions of all Arab concerns, including the Gulf war, the return of Egypt to the Arab rank, the future of the Palestinian cause and the Lebanese situation.

The report submitted by Morocco's Minister of Foreign Affairs M'Hamed Boucetta to the General Secretariat made it evident that there were strong barriers against convening the second half of the Fes Summit which most Arab countries, including Lebanon, are supposed to attend. Lebanon is making its attendance at the summit contingent upon putting an end to its domestic problems. Syria is supporting participation that is limited to an emphasis on treatment of the Lebanese situation. Meanwhile, the secretary general of the Arab League, who arrived in Morocco last Tuesday night, may communicate with apprehensive Arab parties or with those parties who have objections to attending the conference. AL-MUSTAQBAL has learned that Chadli Qalibi conveyed proposals to that effect to the Moroccan monarch. He is expected to undertake new efforts in Algeria, Libya and Mauritania.

It is also worth noting that Ahmed (Bensuda) and Reda (Jadirah), advisers to the Moroccan monarch, had communicated in recent days with numerous Arab capitals. The most notable of these communications may be those that had to do with the dialogue among Arab capitals regarding Egypt's return to the Arab rank. This is the subject that Moroccan officials insist concerns all Arab countries, just as Gulf security, the necessity of putting an end to the destructive war between Iran and Iraq and finding an honorable solution to the Palestinian problem and to Lebanon's unity concern them. However, what is new in these communications, is that some Arab capitals, particularly Sudan, proposed that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next summit meeting and that it be considered from the perspective of concern for the integrity of the Arab rank at this stage.

Morocco's consultations with the Arabs affirm that the principal, central points of these communications were based on ensuring broad participation for all Arab countries. This participation, however, will remain contingent upon the conclusions that the preparatory conference for Arab ministers of foreign affairs will reach when the ministers meet in Mohammedia on the 28th and 29th of this month.

HOUSING PROBLEMS, WAYS OF ALLEVIATING THEM DISCUSSED

Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 5 Jul 82 p 3

[Article by Muhammad al-Huwari: "Real Estate Offices Control the Rental Market and Prices Are Hot; Why Doesn't the Housing Bank Abolish Loans for Buying and Allocate All Loans for Construction?"]

[Text] Three months or more ago, I submitted a number of questions to his excellency the minister of land and municipality affairs regarding the housing problem, the shortage of land and the rent increases, and so far, despite the continuation of the problem, the questions are still lying around in the Ministry of Land and Municipality Affairs.

Specifically, many people suffer from this issue. Searching for an apartment has become a problem that more than one citizen has faced. The problem is not solved merely by finding an apartment but becomes more complicated when one is shocked by the amount of the rent, which fluctuates between 300 and 400 riyals a month, i.e., equivalent to five times the housing allowance set for a government official.

To obtain such an apartment as this has become almost impossible. Why should an official have to pay more than what is allocated for his housing allowance?

The problem has many facets. Land has become a special problem in the capital, which is choked with thousands of development projects. Moreover, many have gone into speculation in land prices, because the terms under which land is granted to citizens does not prevent them from selling it at any time they choose. Some have acquired land not to build on it but to speculate with it on the market, which also makes land prices rise sharply, beyond the means of any middle-class family's budget. The Ministry of Land and Municipality Affairs has been put in a dilemma because of the shortage of land available in the capital as well as by its stand as an observer of the speculation that is taking place. It does not prevent those who obtain land from selling it. The matter requires the direct intervention of the ministry to put an end to that practice and thereby cooling the land market and free it from speculation. The ministry has the right to register land, and it can issue a decree preventing those who get land from the ministry from selling it for a period of 10 years. It can also force the citizen to build on the land within 5 years and not leave it. The aim of the state in deciding to grant land to the

citizenry was to gain their active participation in obtaining housing for themselves through the use of their savings to obtain a suitable house for which every family strives.

New Cities: A Positive Aspect

As we all know, the Ministry of Land and Municipality Affairs is working very hard. No one can be unmindful of its efforts in planning new cities and building the amenities for them, as well as extending utilities to the new lands and attempting to break the bottleneck so that all citizens can have a suitable house.

This wise policy, however, needs to be expeditiously implemented, because the wheel of progress is moving very fast in our country, and all authorities must keep up with the rapid growth. Projects are multiplying and the rate of industrialization is not slowing down. All of this requires a developmental movement to accompany it. Note that the development projects take a long time and therefore must constantly be accelerated and pushed to cover any problems that might unexpectedly arise when the projects are completed.

Rents...Hot!

Looking at all the factors involved, rents are constantly rising, and the reasons are manifold. The shortfall in housing units may be one reason. Moreover, the entry of real estate offices into the role of middlemen causes these offices to constantly look for a higher rent to boost its profits. These offices lease entire buildings and then sublet these units to citizens or government agencies. Naturally, the real estate offices must look for increased rents to cover all their expenditures. The result is that the real estate offices now dominate the rental market. They control what is available in housing and also control the setting of rents asked for each unit. The continued demand for housing keeps the real estate offices in existence, but the responsible authorities must intervene to set the majority of rents.

Rental profit from any housing unit could cover its cost within a period of only 3 to 5 years. What happens, however, is that the rent for these units is not lowered but, on the contrary, constantly rises. The owner has the right to cancel the rentor's lease as soon as the contractual year ends. Many find themselves out on the street because the owner demands a rent increase, and the lessee no longer has the ability to pay the new rent. The solution to this problem could be to make the lease run for a period of 5 years, during which time the owner would be given the right to increase the rent by no more than five percent. It could also be the right of the lessee to remain in the house if he could not find another house with a comparable rent. The most important solution is to require new development projects to build housing for its workers. For example, the cement company is now building houses for its workers close to the firm's site. Moreover, each project or agency with more than 100 employees could be required to build workers housing. In this way, we could increase the number of housing units available, and rents would then be on a level reasonable for the citizens' income.

The Housing Bank and the Problem

The Housing Bank could have played a major role in making housing available for the citizenry, through its granting of loans to citizens if they wished to buy a house or to build a house on a piece of land they owned. However, only a few obtain the loans to build a house for themselves. The majority get the loans to build, and then they rent what they have built at high prices. This increases the speculation in rental prices. For the bank to achieve its effective role, I suggest that in addition to the new terms announced by the bank, for example that the citizen need not take possession of a house, that the citizen be required to live in the house for which he obtained the loan either to build or to purchase and that the loan be restricted to construction purposes only, because the citizens who wish to buy would certainly have savings for this purpose. They want to take advantage of the facilities that the government has made available, whereas there are others who are looking to build on a piece of land and cannot find the necessary financing. Therefore, we should make the biggest part of the funds allocated for purchase loans available to support the construction and development movement. The basic goal of establishing the Housing Bank was to give impetus to construction and development. Those who wish to buy a house have the other banks to obtain loans from. The state must honor the citizen who shares in making a house available for himself by granting him the necessary loan. As for the man who wants a loan for the purpose of buying a house, he can satisfy his needs from the other national banks.

Luxury Construction and Popular Construction

Let's go back to the Housing Bank again. It determines loans for citizens in accordance with their monthly income. In my opinion, this does not permit the larger class of citizens to take advantage of this system, because they get the minimum loan limit, whereas others can obtain higher amounts with which to build luxury housing. The supposition was that the bank would meet its goal of being a service for the citizen with a limited income and set a specific value for construction. I believe, and I have also been told this by more than one contractor, that the cost per meter for middle-class housing fluctuates between 70 and 100 riyals. If a person wanted to build a house of 100 square meters, his construction cost would be about 10,000 riyals. I believe that this is a reasonable amount for building a house. If the citizen wants to build a luxury house, the bank should have no objection to granting him this loan. But it should be for 10,000 riyals, and the citizen should pay any additional costs. In this way, we would have achieved results for the broad sector of citizens, but we also would not have denied the citizen his hope and goal of luxury housing--just that this citizen would carry his share of the load.

As for collective housing, this type of housing can achieve many ends. For example, more than five citizens can benefit from only one loan. This idea requires the cooperative efforts of officials in the Ministry of Land and Municipality Affairs with the Housing Bank. For example, if there are five citizens who want to build five housing units, why doesn't the ministry offer them facilities by granting them priority for obtaining a piece of land,

and the Housing Bank could build five housing units on this land. Consequently, each citizen would get the benefit of owning one housing unit, and we could thereby eliminate the problem of land shortage and also meet the aspirations of the majority of citizens through a simple means.

We are still in a stage of construction, progress and growth. We must be alert from now on to the problems such as these and not be surprised by them. As time goes on, the solution will cost us more and more. High-rise construction will make more housing units available. Why doesn't the ministry make public the amount of land available in the capital up to the end of the 5-year plan? When each citizen knows that the amount of land available is less than what is needed, he will also know that there must be high-rise buildings to make more housing units available.

7005

CSO: 4404/563

PROBLEMS FACING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Riyadh AL-RIYADH in Arabic 14 Jul 82 Supplement p 1

[Article by Salah al-Sa'id: "Only 11 Percent of 4.5 Million Hectares of Arable Land in the Kingdom Used"]

[Text] Agriculture is the basis of development, as all economic development experts emphasize. There is no progress in the other sectors in any country without agricultural advancement. Accordingly, we find that concern for agriculture is equally preeminent in the advanced nations and the developing nations. The advanced industrial nations are also agricultural nations, and the developing nations, before entering the industrial sphere, must develop their agricultural sector. Agriculture and grazing are two of the ancient occupations, in which the majority of the kingdom's population are employed. Despite the discovery of oil and the rapid development and increased growth of the oil sector, the agricultural sector still represents the main occupation for most of the kingdom's population. Despite the flight of agricultural workers into other jobs, 25 percent of the workforce is still employed in the agricultural sector.

The agricultural sector includes both sedentary agriculture and the desert sector which depends upon rainfall. In addition, there are fisheries, grazing resources and woods. The Ministry of Agriculture and Water is considered the governmental authority responsible for agricultural growth. Other agencies cooperate in that, such as the Agricultural Bank, the Bank for Industrial Development, the Ministry of Labor, the State Agency for Grain Silos, the Ministry of Commerce and the Universities, each in its own sphere of competence. The responsibility of these agencies is to provide a suitable climate for farmers through providing the basic infrastructure for the agricultural sector, granting loans and assistance, providing research and studies aimed at improving and diversifying agricultural production, as well as animal production. The following is a review of the most important accomplishments of the agricultural sector, the incentives that are provided by the government and the problems that that sector faces.

Four Million Hectares, Suitable for Agriculture

Estimates indicate that there is about 4.5 million hectares of arable land in the kingdom, including 500,000 hectares that are in fact planted, 600,000 suitable for planting, and 3.4 million hectares that are reclaimable. This proves that the planted area is very small when compared to the area suitable for planting and is not in conformity with the size and potential of the kingdom. Therefore, the government, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and the agencies concerned with agricultural development, is making maximum efforts to develop and reclaim the land, so that the increasing agricultural needs of the citizenry can be satisfied and reliance on outside sources to satisfy our food requirements reduced, in order that we can reach the stage of self-sufficiency.

During the past few years, agricultural production has developed greatly, and the cultivated areas have been greatly increased. Improved agricultural methods are being used, with more reliance on agricultural machinery. In 1976-77, 503,500 hectares were cultivated, which increased to 545,000 in 1977-78 and then 665,300 hectares in 1978-79. Sorghum crops occupied the largest acreage, since they represented more than half of the total cultivated area. Wheat was next, followed by dates, millet, etc. Date production holds first place in terms of agricultural production, since about 400,000 tons are produced annually. Next comes sorghum production of 200,000 tons, followed by melons, wheat, and dried onions.

The kingdom's production of principal crops does not satisfy all our food needs, which leads to dependence on foreign sources to satisfy these requirements. The sorghum crop in 1979 only accounted for about 22 percent of requirements, wheat 25 percent, citrus fruits only about 11 percent, whereas grapes accounted for about 64 percent of requirements. As for barley, nearly all of it had to be imported. Therefore, it is clear that agricultural production in the kingdom is considered to be at a modest level and is not in proportion to the assets and capabilities available to individuals, nor to the increasing demands by the citizenry.

Greater Growth in Animal Production

The animal production sector enjoys the same favored position as that of the agricultural sector, since it offers a subsidy for fodder, easy loans for projects involving dairy products, poultry and eggs, and cattle-fattening projects. This has led to considerable growth in animal production, so that we now produce the largest part of our requirements for chicken, eggs and dairy products. Production of eating chickens has risen from about 25 million in 1977 to about 40 million chickens in 1979. This satisfies about 19 percent of the requirements. As for egg production, it has risen from about 490 million eggs in 1977 to approximately 750 million in 1979. This is about 77 percent of requirements. The increase of dairy products production has been from 9,000 tons in 1977 to about 32,000 tons in 1979, or about 57 percent of the total requirements.

Fish Production Meets 68 Percent of Market Demand

The Saudi government is very concerned about maintaining and developing fish resources, through its undertaking research and studies about fish breeding farms, offering the required aid for fishing and industrializing the fishing business. A center for maritime resources research was established in Jiddah to conduct a comprehensive survey of the coastal areas in which fish abound, to study the local methods of fishing, for the purpose of improving the variety of fish and increasing quantities, and to develop methods of fishing through the use of modern methods. The kingdom currently produces about 16,000 tons of fish and consumes 44,000 tons, i.e., domestic production satisfies about 36 percent of consumption. However, after this concern being shown by the government for the development of the fishing industry, it is expected that domestic production will reach some 30,000 tons, which will cover about 68 percent of our needs.

Distribution of 123,000 Hectares of Fallow Land

The government offers many incentives and subsidies to farmers and to those who want to invest in agriculture and its industries. These incentives include:

Distribution of free land to farmers (The fallow land distribution law). This gives individuals and companies the right to own public land that is suitable for agriculture, for the purpose of cultivating it or to establish agricultural projects on it. This is in accordance with ministerial decree number 1005, dated in 1968, and approved by royal decree number 26/m the same year. This lays down conditions for owning this land which applicants must comply with. By the end of 1979, in accordance with this law, the government had distributed 123,000 hectares, benefiting some 20,000 individuals and about 87 projects for the production of poultry and dairy products.

Financial Subsidies for Agricultural Production and Machinery

For the purpose of supporting and encouraging farmers, increasing their incomes and helping them to use modern technological methods, and in order to maintain a specific level of prices for the consumers' comfort, a program of financial supports for the agricultural sector has been set up. These subsidies are divided into two types. The first pertains to agricultural and animal production. For example, there is a subsidy for each kilo of wheat or dates or sorghum produced of 25 hillahs, 30 hillahs for rice, while barley and millet are both 15 hillahs. As for date palms, a subsidy of 50 riyals is granted for each tree. With regard to cattle, a subsidy is offered for fodder. The second type of subsidy pertains to production elements, such as agricultural machinery, chemical fertilizers, fodder, and pumping stations and machines, and allows 50 percent subsidy of its cost. Moreover, there is a 30 percent subsidy for poultry equipment and milk-producing equipment. The government also guarantees the costs of transporting cattle for higher production.

Tax and Customs Exemptions

Agricultural production and domestic agricultural projects are completely exempt from taxes, and only pay the charity tax of 2.5 percent. As for foreign companies and the shares of foreign partners in various companies, they are taxed beginning from 25 percent up to 45 percent. All firms established in accordance with the Foreign Capital Investment Law, and in which the share of Saudi capital is 25 percent, are exempt from income taxes for the first 10 years. Moreover, importers of agricultural products enjoy customs exemptions on their imports, with the exception of certain symbolic fees, imposed on some types of products, which are also produced domestically, such as onions, potatoes, olives, fruit juice and vegetables. A 3 percent fee is imposed on these items.

Agricultural Loans

The Agricultural Bank and the Industrial Development Bank will make loans to farmers and to investors in agricultural industrialization projects, in accordance with specific terms and without interest. The value of the loan may go up to 100 percent of the project cost in some cases. Total loans granted by the Agricultural Bank, up to the end of 1979, amounted to approximately SR3 billion. It has been decided to loan out SR 1 billion annually.

In addition to these exemptions, subsidies and incentives, the government provides many technical and guidance services, as well as veterinary services, to farmers, in addition to the agricultural research that it undertakes. The Agricultural and Water Research Center is dedicated to developing and improving agricultural production. There is also an agricultural training program, carried out by the Agricultural and Engineering Training Center of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water.

The role of government in the field of agricultural growth is not confined to this support. On the contrary, it works hard to establish infrastructure projects especially for agriculture, such as dams, roads, land reclamation, etc.

Obstacles Facing the Agriculture Sector

Despite the excellent care that the government shows to agriculture, the support, incentives and subsidies that it grants to farmers, the agricultural sector still suffers from many problems that impede its progress toward carrying out the role desired for it in the development plans. This has resulted in the level of agricultural production still being at a modest level, and not satisfying the increasing consumption requirements of the citizenry. These problems can be summarized as follows:

Shortfall of Agricultural Labor

The agricultural sector suffers from the problem of agricultural workers fleeing to the other sectors, with about 1 percent of the workforce leaving each year. It is expected that this trend will continue so long as the

inducements that the other sectors provide continue. The fact is that the problem of labor is a general problem, from which all of the sectors suffer. However, it may be overcome in the agricultural sector, with the use of agricultural machinery. This is what in fact is currently being used in the kingdom, but we still need agricultural labor, which cannot be completely done away with.

Water Shortfall

The kingdom suffers from a great shortage of sources of water. The government is doing its best to provide water suitable for drinking and agriculture. It spends a great deal of money on projects dealing with desalinization, purification, building dams, digging wells and gathering rain water.

Infrastructure

The agricultural sector still suffers from problems regarding the lack of completion of necessary infrastructure projects so that agricultural projects can be established. The government is expending maximum efforts to put this machinery into operation, since it has already built several dams, paved roads and irrigation and drainage projects.

Paucity of Cultivated Plots

Despite the kingdom's vast acreage and lands suitable for agricultural reclamation, the cultivated area so far is in fact considered very meager, with respect to the kingdom's size, potential and needs, since it only represents about 11 percent of the arable land area. Therefore, at the present time, the government is showing considerable concern for land reclamation projects.

It remains to say that the laws established by the government to encourage agriculture have resulted in a considerable willingness among the citizenry during the past 2 years to invest their money in cultivating the fallow lands that the Ministry of Agriculture has distributed. In addition, the ease of obtaining agricultural machinery through subsidies, and the tax and customs exemptions that are offered, along with the loans offered by the Agricultural Bank for this purpose, all have contributed to the sector's progress.

New investors in the field of agriculture are concentrating on the production of grains generally, and particularly wheat, which is being cultivated over large areas of land through the use of modern techniques in irrigation and harvesting. Moreover, it is easy for farmers to market their produce by selling it to grain silos and flour mills, which can accommodate the entire crop through encouraging prices. One must make mention of the other decrees issued by the royal government to encourage date production, and there are decrees of renewed interest in the date palm, by virtue of the fact that it has become an excellent economic resource.

7005

CSO: 4404/590

SUDAN'S OIL RESERVES

Khartoum SUNA in English No 4206, 3 Aug 82 pp 4, 5

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Aug (SUNA)--Sudan's oil reserves are estimated at 10 thousand million barrels, 90 million of which are located at Unity Wells No 2, 5, 6 and 7, announced the Director of Operation in Chevron Oil Company of Sudan.

Speaking to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) monitored here, the Chevron official said Unity Wells are ready for exploitation as soon as the pipeline is constructed.

However, a reliable source in the Energy and Mining Ministry described those figures as conservative because Sudan's oil reserves are actually much higher.

"Well No 8 is still under assessment while digging is continuing at Wells No 9 and 10. Other smaller oil fields were discovered at Abu Gabra," said the Chevron official.

He also explained that the company has so far drilled some 42 wells since 1975 at the cost of \$400 million. He disclosed that the company was presently spending half a million dollars per day on prospect operations.

Five consortiums had been selected to erect a refinery at Kosti with a capacity of 25,000 barrels a day. The refinery costs several hundred millions dollars. A pipeline 500 miles long will also be constructed, he added.

He said a bankment on the White Nile of 80 feddans was being prepared somewhere near Kosti to receive the crude coming from the main oil area near Bahr-al-Ghazal.

On the other hand Chevron contracted a Dutch firm to build seven diesel tankers while it is building three tugboats and seven kerosene storage facilities, the first of which will be installed next October.

CSO: 4500/278

BRIEFS

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO SOUTH--Juba, July 24, (SUNA)--Strict measures have been laid down, in coordination with the Central Government, to guarantee transport and delivery of petroleum products to the Southern Region, said President of the High Executive Council of the Southern Region Joseph James Tombura. He said provinces quotas of petroleum products will be received through the offices of provincial commissioners. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4196, 24 Jul 82 p 3]

SUDAN-JAPAN COOPERATION--Khartoum, July 27 (SUNA)--The government of Japan has offered the Sudan a grant of one-billion yen (\$ 5 million) for boosting food production in the country, SUNA learnt. Concerned bodies in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation are currently considering the fields in which the grant would be utilized, particularly in the areas of traditional agriculture. The government of Japan has managed, during the past five years, to extend an annual grant to the Sudan to help boost food production. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4198, 27 Jul 82 p 1]

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY--Khartoum, July 27, (SUNA)--The Military Industrial Corporation will implement, in collaboration with some British firms, a number of industrial projects, SUNA learnt. A corporation delegation, led by colonel (Chemist) Yahya Al-Zubayr was back here Sunday from London where he contacted the Imperial Chemical Industries Co. and other British firms on this regard. Al-Zubayr said those firms had agreed to extend necessary expertise for the promotion of ammunition and chemical industries. He said that the Ammunition Factory will also make use of British expertise to manufacture spare parts for different vehicles. Those projects, he said, would save lots of money and realize self-sufficiency for the people's Armed Forces. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4198, 27 Jul 82 p 2]

ROMANIAN TRANSFORMERS--Khartoum, July 27, (SUNA)--The meetings of the Sudanese-Romanian joint ministerial committee in Bucharest, July 29 - August 2, will witness the signing of a loan agreement to the value of \$ 7.5 million extended by Romania to Sudan for the importation of 600 Romanian-made transformers to help resolve the electricity bottlenecks resulting from power cuts, to which the Capital was vulnerable during the recent months, SUNA learnt. The first consignment of the transformers,

totalling 400, is due for shipment to the Sudan following the signing of the agreement, SUNA learnt. Planning Director at the National Electricity Corporation and member of the Sudanese side to the joint meetings Hashim Al-Mu'tasim will sign the agreement on behalf of the Sudan government. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4198, 27 Jul 82 p 1]

SUDAN-IRAQ COOPERATION--Khartoum, 6 Aug (SUNA)--An Iraqi commercial delegation headed by the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of External Trade is due here this evening to participate in the meetings of the Sudanese-Iraqi Joint Commercial Committee, to be convened early next week, SUNA learned. The meetings will discuss means of boosting trade exchange and economic cooperation between the two countries. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4209 6 Aug 82 p 2]

FARMER UNIONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES DISSOLVED--Khartoum, 6 Aug (SUNA)--The Registrar General of the farmers organizations has yesterday ordered the dissolution of 51 of the farmers unions executive committees. He announced that the 51 committees would be regarded as preparatory committees to prepare for new elections for which the end of November was fixed as the dead line. The executive committees should have eventually conducted new elections after the expiry of its terms which had elapsed long ago, the Registrar said. "But they did not do that and we were forced to dissolve them because they lost legitimacy," he added. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4209, 6 Aug 82 pp 2, 3]

AL-JAZIRAH ELECTRIFICATION PLAN--The Central Region Government has allotted ls. 400,000 for carrying out a plan aiming at electrifying the Al-Jazirah Province rural areas, SUNA learned. The major problem barring the execution of the plan is shortage in electric converters, the Central Region Governor has earlier told a popular gathering, at Rufa'ah. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4209, 6 Aug 82 p 7]

TREE PLANTING PROJECT--Three hundred feddans have been planed with muscwood trees by the Al-Jazirah pastures administration. The move is in the context of the studies supervised by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to combat desert encroachment and soil erosion at Western Al-Jazirah, SUNA learned. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4206, 6 Aug 82 p 8]

IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT BUDGET--The development budget for irrigation sector for the fiscal 1982/83 has been received and contained the allocation of Ls9,280,000 for on-going schemes, Ls6,421,000 for modernization and rehabilitation projects. Ls2,760,000 for concentration projects and Ls5,950,000 for Jonglei canal project, announced irrigation Under Secretary Engineer Ahmad 'Abbas Badr. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4208, 5 Aug 82 p 11]

COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE--Khartoum, 5 Aug (SUNA)--The Attorney General Chamber has formulated a compulsory military service bill to be submitted to the National People's Assembly for endorsement, SUNA learned. Accordingly, an administration for compulsory military service was set up at the General Command of the People's Armed Forces, an official source at the General Command told SUNA. The source said contacts were made with Regional Governors for the establishment of recruiting centres in the regional capitals. The said administration will issue a guide containing the main provisions of the bill and how to apply the recruiting laws to eligible (18-30) persons. There will also be symposia in different news media on the compulsory military service and its objectives, the source added. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA In English No 4208, 5 Aug 82 pp 4,5]

HOUSING FOR MILITARY--Chaired by State Minister of Defence Gen Fathi 'Umar Abu-al-Hasan, the Board of the Military Corporation for Housing and Construction met here Thursday morning, SUNA learned. Gen Abu-al-Hasan said the corporation would build 280 houses to be sold for military personnel on installment bases. Some international firms have shown readiness to cooperate and implement the various projects of the establishment, he added. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4210, 7 Aug 82 p 6]

BANKING FACILITIES--Khartoum, 6 Aug (SUNA)--Facilities extended by the commercial banks to the private sector during January-May reached Ls914,100,000, SUNA learned. Short term loans registered Ls718,650,000 of which Ls231,140,000 was designated for the finance of exports and Ls134,700,000 for imports while Ls248,250,000 went for the finance of industries and the remainder was taken up by agriculture. Long term loans amounted to Ls195,460,000. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4210, 7 Aug 82 p 1]

ELECTRICITY CORPORATION STRUCTURE--Khartoum, 8 Aug (SUNA)--Board of Directors of the National Electricity Corporation held a meeting here yesterday under the chairmanship of the State Minister at the Ministry of Energy and Mining and Board Chairman of the Corporation Yusuf Sulayman. Sulayman informed the participants that the proposed structure of the corporation had been endorsed. He also announced that local and international know-how firms would participate in implementing those structures. The meeting reviewed a report presented by concerned officials on the Power III Project. The meeting also selected the emblem of the corporation which was presented by the Director General of the Corporation Muhammad Nasr Abu-Bakr. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4211, 8 Aug 82 p 6]

STNO-SUDANESE COMMERCIAL PROTOCOL--Khartoum, 9 Aug (SUNA)--Sudan and the People's Republic of China have signed a new commercial protocol specifying commodities to be exchanged in the value of \$100 million. According to the protocol Sudan will export the worth of \$50 million of commodities including cotton gum arabic, sesame, (Sanamaka) and hides to China. The People's Republic of China will export commodities valued at \$50 million to Sudan. These goods include drugs, machines, tea, rice, chemicals and some other classified commodities. The new commodity exchange protocol exceeds that of the previous year by 7 percent. A Sudanese delegation, led by Cooperation, Commerce and Supply Minister Faruq Ibrahim al-Maqbul was back here Saturday from Beijing after negotiating the protocol. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 4212, 9 Aug 82 pp 3, 4]

ALLOCATION FOR PETROLEUM DEPOTS--Some LS. 3,500.000 has been allocated in the 1982/83 budget to enable the Ministry of Energy and Mining establish petroleum depots at Port Sudan and Hayya, SUNA learnt. About tow millicn pounds of the amount is in foreign exchange. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4195, 23 Jul 82 p 1]

CROP PRODUCTION INCREASE--Khartoum, July 23, (SUNA)--A sizable increase in rainfed crops production was reached in more than a six-million-feddan area cultivated this season 1981-82. Sorghum production has amounted to 2,728,457 tonns, sesame to 79,510 tonns and cotton to 10,357 tonns. A reliable source at the Public Corporation for Mechanized Agriculture said the increase in the production of this season was the result of a well worked out preparations. He said petroleum products and spare parts at the cost of 5 million dollars financed against the third loan extended by the World Bank, were made available early before the start of cultivation. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4195, 23 Jul 82 p 1]

LIVESTOCK TRANSPORTATION--Khartoum, Aug 13 (SUNA)--The Public Corporation for Meat and Livestock marketing has received parts of 70 two-storey railway wagons for transportation of livestock, Dr 'Uthman Bushara, the director of the corporation told SUNA. The wagons will raise the capacity of livestock transportation to 112,000 head of livestock, the number is believed to be four times bigger the present livestock transportation capacity. The cost of the wagons together with the cost of renovation of station bankments amounts to 17 million dollars, Bushara said. He said the corporation would receive, in the near future, the final approval for financing the livestock road project from the world Fund for Agricultural Development. The road extends from the production areas right to consumption sites, he explained. Bushara said those two projects would alleviate the problem of meat and livestock transportation. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4216, 13 Aug 82 p 1]

ENERGY, MINING DEVELOPMENT FUND--The sum of Ls. 103 millions including the equivalent of 76 million pounds in foreign currency was earmarked for energy and mining sector in the 1982/83 budget, SUNA learnt. The money will be utilized in developing electricity and water projects, mines prospection and geological survey. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English No 4194, 22 Jul 82 p 5]

CSO: 4500/280

AGRICULTURAL PLANS, PROBLEMS VIEWED

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 13 Jul 82 p 2

[Article: "Full Debate of Agricultural Projects in the Provinces"]

[Text] A joint meeting was held yesterday between the Farmers Federation in Hims and the Directorate of Agriculture and Agricultural Reform to discuss the final figures regarding the agricultural production plan for the provinces for the 1982-83 season, submitted by the farmers leagues and the agricultural bureaus for the cooperative and individual sectors.

In the meeting, the detailed statements of the plan pertaining to irrigated acreage, the size of loans, and the amounts of fertilizer needed were also studied. Note that the Farmers Leagues submitted their plans to the Federation, which in turn coordinated and analyzed them. The Agricultural Bureaus also submitted their plans to the Directorate of Agriculture.

At this meeting, the Federation and the Directorate of Agriculture decided to submit the joint plan to the General Federation of Farmers and the ministry, so that it can be discussed and ratified, along with the provincial plans.

In Aleppo, the branch agricultural council in its meeting yesterday, chaired by the governor, ratified the draft agricultural production plan for Aleppo Province, for the 1982-83 season, for the public, cooperative and private sectors, for both vegetable and animal production.

Technical committees were also formed, whose mission is to carry out field campaigns and to take the necessary actions to protect cattle from the plague diseases that might be spreading due to afflicted animals.

The council affirmed circulating to all authorities that they should take the necessary actions to implement cultivation of maize and to obtain the seeds from the Ministry of Agriculture for acreage amounting to 200 hectares.

In al-Suwayda', a meeting was held yesterday, chaired by comrade chief of the branch office of farmers, attended by the chief of the Farmers Federation in the province, members of the Executive Office of the Federation, the director of agriculture and comrade members of the farmers leagues. It was held in the headquarters of the party branch leadership in al-Suwayda'.

In the meeting, it was affirmed that field trips should be taken to learn the farmers' issues, to follow up on making agricultural inroads in the Zahr al-Jabal area and Qanawat, and to strive to reclaim the land owned by the Farmers Federation in Zahr al-Jabal, amounting to 450 dunums.

At this meeting, it was also decided to form a committee in the Shahba' and Sulkhad areas, composed of the head of the Farmers League and the chief of the Agricultural Bureau, whose task is to tour the area of the third settlement, in which rainfall is less than 250 millimeters, and to submit a study along with proposals concerning the planting of the (Atrilicus) shrub. They are to appoint whomever they deem appropriate to carry out this task.

The Farmers Branch Office in Tartus held a meeting yesterday, chaired by the head of the office, and attended by the chief of the Farmers Federation, the head of the Agricultural Engineers Union and the director of the branch of the retail firm. The marketing plan for the province's production of apples was studied and discussed.

It was decided in principle, in light of the quantities which will be contacted for between the production associations and the company, to open 10 marketing centers, provided that the company supply the necessary containers, while the farmers' organization will assume the job of holding meetings with the producers to explain the marketing plan and to ratify the marketing contracts up until the 10th of next month.

7005

CSO: 4404/615

ENGINEERS UNION CALLS FOR CUTTING U.S. COOPERATION

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 11 Jul 82 p 2

[Article: "Engineers Union Calls for Boycott of Engineering Cooperation With American Firms"]

[Text] The Syrian Engineers Union, in a statement issued in Damascus yesterday, called for a boycott of all forms of engineering cooperation with American firms and organizations, including studies, equipment and importation.

It also called for a freeze on contracts with American companies operating in the Arab countries and a ban on accepting American ships and aircraft and on supplying them with fuel at Arab ports and airfields.

In its statement, the union emphasized that all engineers should comply with this, and it requested them to boycott all American goods, whose cost was turned into bombs to kill our heroic troops and fighters.

This statement was issued as a result of a meeting held by the board of the Syrian Engineers Union in Damascus recently, which was attended by the chiefs and secretaries of the union's provincial branches, and which was held out of pan-Arab duty.

In its meeting, the board adopted some decisions that affirmed the resolutions of the emergency meeting of the Supreme Council of the Arab Engineers Federation, held in Tunis at the beginning of this month, and which required the boycott of all forms of engineering cooperation with firms, organizations and individuals from the United States.

The union board also decided to take a broad initiative within engineers' circles, to hold mass meetings with them to explain the current situation and the dimensions of the imperialist, Zionist invasion of Lebanon, and to highlight Syria's pan-Arab role in opposing the invading forces, in solidarity with the Palestinian Resistance and the Lebanese National Forces.

The board also decided to undertake a joint initiative with the branches of the other professional unions in this regard, and to visit the wounded and honor the martyrs, organize blood donors campaigns, form central and

subcommittees to collect cash donations from engineers, arrange contacts with foreign and international engineering bodies, in order to explain the truth of the situation and to attempt to crystallize the positions of these organizations regarding the boycott of America and Israel on the engineering level.

The Engineers Union's statement praised the spirit of sacrifice which has transformed Lebanon into a battlefield of glory and heroism. It also praised the fateful solidarity between the fighters and troops of the steadfastness trio, represented by Syria, the Palestinian REsistance and the Lebanese National Forces, affirming that this steadfastness will smash all American imperialist, Zionist and Arab reactionary dreams and will throw back their attacks in their faces.

The statement condemned the Arab reactionary regimes and their collusion with the United States to finish off the Palestinian revolution, strike at revolutionary Syria and eliminate the Arab liberation movement.

The statement urged the nations of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front to increase solidarity and sacrifice, as the way to achieve the nucleus of Arab unity, within the progressive, national context hostile to Arab reactionism, and to defeat America's clients in the area.

At the conclusion of its statement, the Syrian Engineers Union also affirmed the depth and development of cooperative and friendly relations between Syria and the Soviet Union as a basic condition to respond to aggression and to oppose the attempts of American conspiracies against the Arab Nation from the Mediterranean to the Gulf.

7005

CSO: 4404/615

BRIEFS

GAS DEVELOPMENT--Mr 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, yesterday chaired a meeting of the Executive Committee of the project to complete exploration and development of the gas fields and the Executive Committee of the project for the treatment and shipment of gas from the gypsum fields to the urea ammonia fertilizer plant in Hims. The meeting was attended by the minister of oil and mineral wealth, aides to the minister of oil, the director general of the Syrian Oil Corporation and members of the two executive committees. The report of the technical and financial committee of the bids received for the gas treatment and shipment project was studied in this meeting, along with the results reached as a result of discussions conducted by the minister of oil and committee members with representatives of the bidding firms. After some discussion, it was decided to request all the firms to submit their final bids, along with affirming compliance with the list of conditions for competitive bidding, which had been announced for this project. The Syrian Oil Company will give the bidders a copy of the draft contract that it has prepared. It is worth noting that the purpose of implementing this project is to exploit the gas derived from the wells and use it in the manufacture of urea ammonia fertilizer, instead of the naptha material produced by the oil refinery in Hims, which can be sold for high prices. [Text] [Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 15 Jul 82 p 2] 7005

CSO: 4404/615

END

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

7/15/82
